The Oration and Sermon made at Rome, by commaundement of the foure Cardinalles, and the Dominican Inquisitour, vpon paine of death. By John Nichols, latelie the Popes Scholler.

Which Sermon and Oration was presented before the Pope and his Cardinalles in his Consistorie, the xxvij. day of Maie. 1573. and remaineth there registred. Now by him brought into the English tongue, for the great comfort and commoditie of all faithfull Christians.

Herein also is aunswered an infamous Libell, maliciouslie written and cast abroad, against the foule Iohn Nichols, *with a sufficient discharge of himselfe from all the Papists lying reports, and his owne life both largelie and ample discouered.*

Domine, quàm multi sunt qui tribulant me: multi consurgunt aduersum me: multi dicunt animæ meæ, Non est salus ipsi in Deo.

Imprinted at London by Iohn Charlewood, and are to be sold at the little North dore of S. Paules Church, at the signe of the Gunne, by Edward White.

W1.p.1095.

1. Peter. 2. c.

Deum timete, Regem honorate.

Cic:

θεὸν γὰρ ἀγαθὸν ἡ τιμή.

ὑποτάγητε οὖν πάσῃ ἀνθρωπίνῃ κτίσει, διὰ τὸν κύριον, εἴτε βασιλεῖ, ὡς ὑπερέχοντι.

Augustissimæ Serenissimæq; Principi,
cunctis honoris disseminati dispersíque ser-
monis celsissimæ sedis dignitatis, summæ amplitudinis
atq; amplissimorum graduum maiestatis titulis dignissimæ,
Elizabethæ Dei gratia, Angliæ, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ Reginæ, Ca-
tholicæ et Christianæ fidei nouis veritatis inuictæ, inclytissimæ conser-
uatrici, clarissimæ fautrici, atque nobilissimæ patronæ, clauum
huius nostri Anglicani Regni, terræ vndique aquis cinctæ, iure rectéque
tenenti, cùm in causis ecclesiasticis, tùm in temporalibus, summam
in hac vita splendoremi, Bonorum subditorum circumfluens incre-
mentum, præclaram et triumphantem in hostes victoriam
atque trophæum, splendidum æternæ beatitudinis
diadema, in Christi denique regno vitæ
perennitatem, atque gloriæ haud fluxæ
et interituræ splendidam et ra-
diantem coronam.

CVM PEDEM POND, ET MA
infero in debitam animaduersi-
onẽ (Christianissima atq; pientissima Princeps) faustæ trãquillitatis huius tuæ ditionis pacatæ, omni perturbatione carentis, atq; cui omnia prosperè fœlicitérq; procedunt. Cùm contrariò diabolici et Antichristiani imperij memoriam habeo, sub cuius dominatus potestate teneris flauescens annis in Italia, duorum annorum cutriculum perfidè nequitérque transegi, non minus mihi dolet impietas mea, quàm subditi violata fides. Do-

¶.ii. lor

lor mihi accidit, cum in animū induco me veræ, solidæ, et eminentis religionis naufragium inconsideratè, incōsultè, et temerè fecisse. Eodem animi cruciatu, dolore, et mœrore afficior, cum ratione animóq; lustro, me meam erga te obseruantiam deseruisse, et subiecti fidem perfidiosè prodidisse. Tamen exiguæ aquæ pluuialis guttæ sæpè cadendo durum terunt saxum, et os quodcunq; in aceto positum, paruo temporis interuallo, ad omne artificium subeundum aptum et appositum erit. Perindè misericors ac clemens Domina, spero mē non ficta pœnitentia ductum, tandem quam tetigi, extinguere posse culpam, cum in religione veritati euangelicæ repugnanti, tum a pietate remota, ἀπαθείᾳ. O Deus immortalis, cum a te auersus eram, tenebris immersus, et erroribus innumerabilibus implicatus, quàm grauiter tibi peccaui; quàm impiè deliqui, tota *Anglia* sciat.

Christianam pietatem, euangelij puritatem, religionis castissimæ sanctitatem, cœlestem disciplinā spreui, contempsi, neglexi. Homo nihilominùs eram, et falsæ opinionis colligatione detineri facilimè poteram. Qua de re

vt

vt meo delicto venia concedatur rogo postulóq;. Mihi durissima rebellionis meæ seruitus necessariò patienda, extremáq; miseria subeunda fuisset, si in erroribus turbulentis, et superstitionibus pœnè anilibus perseuerassem. Sed iam tutior est anima mea quàm antehac, cum sim ad eam conuersus religionem, quæ verbi tui prescriptione fundata, diuinisq; tuis opibus firmata et stabilita est, quæ hominem corporis natura fragilẽ, ocilij temeritate præcipitem, rerum omnium casu calamitosum, ad omne malum funestum procliuem, repentè reddit inuictum, viribus concilióq; diuino præditum, fœlicisśimóq; rerum omnium euentu in omni æternitate florentissimum. Quæ inquam religio animum languentem ad salutem reducit, stabilit vires, mentes collustrat, opes elargitur, voluptatum effectrix est, ad diuinitatem et immortalitatem ducit, postremò Deum hominibus deuincit: humanúmq; genus cum diuina mente, bonorum omnium communione consociat. Cuius neque forma et species liberalis corrumpi, nec fructus iucunditatis contaminari, nec opes auerti, nec honores attenuari possunt,

nempe cùm sit cœlesti præsidio septa, et contra omnia mortis et inuidiæ tela, armis diuinis armata. Licèt igitur altissimũ Dei domicilium concidat, terra incendio deflagret, mare ardoribus exustum intereat, omniáq; tandem quæ intuemur oculis ad nihilum redigantur, Euangelicæ veritatis professio decus et gloriam retinebit, opibúsq; diuinis æuo sempiterno perfruetur. Illius iam compos sum religionis, in qua si persistam, beatissimus: si ab illa deserar, miserrimus ero, æternáq; pœna cruciandus.

Concedat Deus optimus maximus, ad numen suum placandum, diuinámque gratiam retinendam, æternúmque præmium consequẽdum, huius religionis diuitias atque magnificentiam mecum animo reputans, illius studio et cupiditate flagrem, omnes vitæ curas et cogitationes ad cultum illius conferam, vt præ amore illius, nec laborem fugiam, nec periculum metuam, neq; mortem reformidem, neq; cruciatum exhorream: vt eam fidem ritè colam, vt semper studiõ diuinę legis incensus, me nec vllus ardor exurat, neque turbo aut tempestas vlla conuellat, neque

vllum

vllum deniq; tempus, quantumuis graue et metuendum multis, me aut Christianę religionis laudibus et ornamentis, aut oportuno fructu virtutis spoliet. Cùm enim altissima veritatis stirpe nitar, et nunquam sim munerum diuinorũ affluentia destitutus: euenire opus est, vt non modò salutares fructus, atque sempiternos proferam: sed sempiternis laudibus illustrer. Vt his bonis frui possim, te imploro vt pręstò mihi sis. Si defueris mihi vnquam, versabor in tantis tenebris atque caligine, agitabor tam aduersis tempestatibus atque procellis, vt per me non valeam vitę cursum rectè instituere, aut institutum ita tenere, vt non tandem fluctibus obruar.

Si tuo præsidio subnixus non fuero, ad verum tui cultum aspirare non potero. Spes mea fallax erit, conatus irritus, labor inanis, et assiduis et infinitis cruciamentis torquebor. Concede Domine, vt insistere possim vestigijs sanctorum Euangelij professorum, ad perfruendam eandem gaudij consolationem: concede denique, vt mea mens erecta sit ad audiendum,

animus alacer et expeditus ad exequendum quicquid mihi erit a te imperatum. Sic autem sim fide stabilitus, vt omnia humana contemnam, et diuina tantùm ardentissimè concupiscam. Ad te florentissima Virgo, atq; illustrissima Regina iam nunc redit oratio. Iniquo me scelere astrictũ inficias non eo, cum a te (Princeps clementissima) defeceram ad Antichristum. Sed tunc temporis nequitia perditus, amentia præceps, aduerso fortunæ flatu oppressus, et prauæ tentationis pœnis excruciatus eram. Fideli subdito cõsentaneum, et bonitati decorum nihil quidquam feci. Ei, in quo superbia latè dominatur, obedientiam præstiti, et illum Christi vicarium asserere nõ verebar. Tibi verò, cum sis Regina Domina huius mei patrui soli, obedire nolui: si me ad obedientiam promptum atq; paratum exhibuissem, patriam meam minimè deseruissem. Sed nemo mortalium rectum vitæ cursum perpetuò tenere potest, vt non interdum de via deflectat, et iram in se Dei atq; Principis haud indignè prouocet. *Dauid* Propheta, in quo, vt sacræ testãtur scripturæ, eluxit diuinum illud admirandæ sanctitatis

exemplum,

exemplum, perpetuum vitæ cursum sine graui aliquo lapsu conficere non poterat: vis libidinis eum a sanctitudinis studio semel dimouebat, et ab inchoato pietatis cursu retardauit. *Salomon* sapientia præcellens, in summa erroris caligine versabatur, atq; miserandæ tenebræ animo suo offusæ erant, cum sua ratio fuerat obscurata, criminibus cum turpitudine et dedecore cõiunctis, et impedita sceleribus, atque libidinis indomitæ vinculis alligata. Ruptis pudicitiæ claustris, et castitatis repagulis perfractis, in peccati sordibus remota pœnitentia iacebat, et deos alienos sibi colendos proposuit.

Sũmo totius sanctimoniæ architecto, et veritatis lumine deserto, *Dauid* regius Propheta, ob sceleris sui perpetrati conscientiam, lamẽtis, gemitibus, atq; lachrymis continuò se dedit. Quæ delicti detestatio erat piacularis hostia, victima salutaris, ardore charitatis inflãmata, quæ intima cœli penetrauit, diuinúmq; numen a seuerirate ad misericordiam flexit. Aditum sibi in cœlum aperiebat, et magnum suum peccati contagium expiauit, atq; gratiam Dei in æternum sibi conciliauit, pacémq;

impetra-

impetrauit. Si *Salomon* Rex, vt ingenij acrimonia, et iudicij præstantia, et doctrinæ vbertate erat præditus, sic virtutis dotibus cumulatus et ornatus extitisset, à se flagitia susceptа proculdubiò lamentatus fuisset, et ex ergastulo corporis sui ad cœlos emigrasset, piorum animorũ cœtibus interfuisset, suum decus omnes cœlites intuiti fuissent, nomen suum summus ipse Deus, qui eum sibi adoptasset, amplexus esset, et chorus angelorum diuinis laudibus illũ extulisset: atque postremò, quod caput est, summo illi cœli dominatori, nutu omnia regenti, purásq; mentes immensa luce collustranti, et summis æternísq; laudibus cumulanti, perpetuò copulatus fuisset. Si Deus nostræ culpæ condonabit, quando admissum flagitium detestamur, crimina cum pudore et dolore confitemur, à libidine ad continentiam, à flagitijs ad honestatem traducimur, ab odio ad charitatem conuertimur, in nouámq; vitam ingredimur, et sanctis operibus exercemur, cũ hominũ inuenta cõtemnimus et abijcimus, et illorum placita, decreta, et instituta, sũmæ sapientiæ disciplinam, et sanctissimam vitæ legem minimè

omnium

omniũ existimamus, Deus, rerum omniũ creator, atq; imperator celsissimus, remittet nobis peccata nostra, et placabitur, atq; præmijs cœlestibus nos afficiet. Nõ dubito, si es talis (Domina et Regina eximij et acerrimi ingenij prę dicatione multũ cęlebrata) qualẽ existimo, et multi dicũt esse te maximè, quin tuam misericordiã et beneficẽtiam experiar maximè misericordẽ et beneficẽtissimam. Oblata iam est mihi occasio flagitandi veniam concedendam culpæ meæ contra te commissæ (vt paulò antè satis abundè verbis explicaui) et petendi aliquam beneficentiam et liberalitatem mihi elargiendam. Haud secùs facio quàm peccator, qui non modò vt sua culpa ignoscatur quærit, verumetiam vt gaudij sempiterni eleemozynam adipisci possit, omnipotẽti Deo manus supplex tendit, et precibus obnixè sedulóq; elaborat. Quòd in tuæ Maiest. offensionẽ incidebam, non incõgruum esse putaui in hac Epistola dedicatoria, et meam culpam explicare, summè contendere, et vehementer petere à tua Regia dignitate, vt huius incompti libelli suscipiatur patrocinium: temeritate forsitan ductus, magis quàm prudentia

fretus:

fretus: non sum nescius, neminem extitisse vnquam, qui non doctissimũ quemq; tuæ Maiestati dedicauerat librum: quamuis autem id præstare nequeam, hanc tamen voluntatem meam non ingratam tibi fore spe atq; animo incubo. Solent enim magni heroes atque sagaces Principes, non tam muneris oblati dignitatem expendere, quàm offerentis animum atque fidem ponderare. Cum *Xerxes Græcia* Imperator imperium suum perlustrasset, pauper quidam subditus, qui nihil opulentum habuit ad deferẽdum Imperatori, aquæ manipulum offerre ausus est: prudens Imperator, non donum, sed voluntatem expendebat. Quod oblatum erat grato animo accepit, et *Sinætem* pauperem subiectũ magno affecit beneficio. Cum enim maximum Regiæ honoris amplitudinis præsidium et insigne, sit in hominum beneuolentia atque fidelitate constitutum, quomodo potest id illis iniucundum et ingratum accidere, quod intelligunt esse ex egregia voluntate, atque singulari fide profectum? Non rumores de tuæ bonitatis præstantia dissipati iudicia afferunt, sed experiẽtia (Domina sereniſſima, et huius

nostræ

noſtræ inſulæ *Anglicanæ* fœliciſſima Regnatrix) docet et demonſtrat, Deum varia virtutis dona tibi elargitũ fuiſſe. Tyrannis Traditorum, inſidiæ Rebellium, malitia impiorum, coniurationes Papiſtarũ, et clãdeſtinæ proditiones aut tibi nocere non poterãt, aut ardorem veræ religionis extinguere, aut egregios conatus frangere, aut vt tui officij et muneris obliuiſcereris, aut ab inſtituto curſu deduceteris, aut animum tuum heroicum reflectere non valebant. Mitis tua patientia, continua perſeuerantia, imperialis authoritas, acumen ingenij, cognitio literarum, animus excelſus, et Chriſtiana tua pietas, inimicum vicit, copias hoſtium domeſticorum fudit fugauitq; , ſubegit Traditores, expulit Papam, ſuos confudit pupillos, et huic tuo Regno *Anglicano* pacem et quietem peperit. Non plus ſcripſi quàm veritas concedere poteſt, neque igitur poteſt quiſquam iuſtè affirmare, ſimulationem in me cecidiſſe. Hanc pretioſam gemmam, hanc Dominam noſtram *Elizabetham* conſeruet Deus, ad eius religionem purè atque ſanctè colendam, et audacter defendendam, ad Diuinum ſpiritum diligendum et timendum,

timendū charitatis satorem, altorem, et patrē-tem, cuius numine, concilio, et voluntate, regna nascuntur, augentur, atque retinentur: cuius mente atque ratione gubernantur: cuius denique offensione labuntur et concidunt, atque delentur. Precibus contendamus, vt totum regni pondus sustinens, summa cum laude gubernet, qua ire via cœpit ea pergat, ad immortalem gloriam consequendam: curam et cogitationem esse in religionis studio ponendam nunquam inficietur: sic enim omnium virtutum opibus, et ornamentis magnificentissimè redundabit: et gloria ingenti nullis vnquam sæculis interitura circumfluet: presidijsque diuinis in omni rerum discrimine munietur: et ex his terrarum angustijs, in illam cœlestem regionem euolabit: illius autem splendoris cupiditate incensa rapietur, quæ non peruulgata virtutis claritate, aut prædicatione hominum continetur.

Qui ad veram custodiendam religionem, et ad pauperum Scholasticorū inopiam subleuandam, incredibili animi studio contendunt

et

etincumbunt, remunerationem vberrimam obtinebunt. Precationibus deniq; noſtris diuinum numen inuocemus, vt *Elizabetha* Regina, et Domina noſtra, latiſſimè, diu, et fortunatiſſimè in terra dominetur, et poſt extremum vitæ diem, ſedibus illis beatiſsimis diuiniſque domicilijs fruatur, in quibus homines præſtantes locati, nec vitijs infici, nec deformitate maculari, nec tormentis conuelli poſſint, ſed expertes omnium malorum, æterniſque præſidijs et ornamentis magnificentiſſimè redundantes, gloria immortali circumfluent. Ipſi ſoli demum ſunt beatiſſimi iudicandi, diuinis opibus exculti, ſummis bonis affluentes, æternis gaudijs triumphantes, quorum vita eſt omni bonorum copia cumulata, quorum laus emori non poteſt, quorum nomen nulla vnquam obſcurabit obliuio. Vt in illam cœleſtem ciuitatis conditionem Domina ampliſſima, atque ſplendidiſſima huis imperij Regnatrix, tua Maieſtas accipiatur, diuinis laudibus abundans, ſplendore diuinæ lucis illuſtrata, et diuina gloria

floreus,

florens, Iehouam supplex deprecor. Christus optimus maximus te, cum summa dignitatis exaggeratione, multis annis saluam et incolumem tueatur atque conseruet. Papista tacet, Christianus dicit Amen. Sic concluditur Epistola: det Deus bonum euentum.

Tuæ Maiestatis

obedientißimus
subditus

Ioannes Nicholaus
Camberbritannus.

To the courteous and wel disposed Reader.

FOure things (good Christian Reader) haue caused me to be circumspect in vvriting this booke: to vvit, Feare, Care, Necessitie & Affectiō. Feare afflicted me: care compelled me: necessitie bound me: and affection vvounded me: Feare afflicted me because the greef of cōming into infamie, reproche and troubles, caused a great circumspection in me, to marke diligently vvhat I vvrote, and to put the same dovvn in vvriting vvithout any spot of hipocrisie and double dealing. Care compelled me to be circumspect in my dooings, lest that the Papistes should finde a bone to gnavve there vppon. Necessitie vrged me, bothe to answvere to the infamouse Libells vvrittē against me, and to satisfie (if I might) the honest request of certain zelous Christiās, in vvriting the Oration and Sermon vvhich vvere doon at Roome. And as necessitie caused me to

purge my self of the false reports of lying Papists, so dooth necessitie prouoke me to be circumspect in all my sayings. Affection stirreth me vp to vvrite those things vvhich are no lesse true then profitable: But if my vvriting be neuer so true, yet notvvithstanding some or other busie headed fellovv vvill speak against them, I haue not their tunges in keeping, let them speak vvhat they list, and I shall arme my self vvith pacience. And heerin vvil I follovv the steps of Zenocrates, vvho for his pacience vvas much commended: for though he vvere of his Maister Plato vniustly accused of vngratefullnesse, yet vvas he nothig moued therevvithall, and beeing asked vvhy he did not answver Platoes defaming of him: made this answver. That vvhich I doo, is good and profitable for me. So I say, that vvhich I haue vvritten in this Sermon made at Roome, novv I confesse to be true, and I hope this confession shalbe good & profitable for my soules helth. And as for the vvords of the Papists, as they are but vvind: so let them passe as vvinde,

as

as they proceed from a malicious hart: so I cõster them, and so I accept them, not vvith malice, but vvith pacience.

The pacience of Eusebius teacheth me so to doo, for vvhẽ a vvicked vvoman, infected vvith the heresies of Arrius, had vvilfully throvvne a stone at him, and thervvithall had vvounded him to death: he vvas so far from taking reuenge, that he svvare his freends vpon his death bed, not to punish her therfore. O noble minde, O vertuous act vvoorthy of eternall memorie, he forgaue her that vvas his enemy, and did him great iniury. The like pacience God graunt vnto me, that vvhatseuer the Papists say or doo against me: I be not angrie therfore, but take all things in good parte, and pray for them, that they may haue a penitent hart, to be sory for their dooings and sayings, against thẽ vvhich vvish them no othervvise then to them selues, one faith in Iesus Christe, and brotherly loue one tovvards an other. God be merciful vnto them, and vnto vs all, and shevv vs the light of his countenaunce. God

increase the number of his elect. God conuert his enemies vnto the trueth of his Sacred Gospell. God graunt the amendment of life vnto vs all, for surely as yet God is not serued aright, our vvoords and deeds doo greatly differ in effect, our vvords are heauenly, our vvoorks are vvorldly, vvicked and deuilish. God graunt vs effectually grace vvherby vve may be saued. Graunt this O Lord for thy deer sonnes sake. Amen.

Thine in the Lord,
Iohn Nichols.

To the worſhipfull companie, of Merchant Aduenturers, at *Emden*, and at *Antwerp*, grace, and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Ieſus Chriſt. Amen.

AS I was deſirous (worſhipfull Company) to ſatiſfie the requeſt of diuers, and ſundrie zealous Catholiques, ſo am I not forgetfull, of your tried frendſhip in a forraine Countrie, conſtrained at that preſent time to craue the ſame, and to ſhewe my ſelfe, no leſſe thankfull, then mindfull of your proued courteſie. Duety bindeth me to ſende vnto you this Oration and Sermon, made at Roome, written then in Latin, but nowe in Engliſhe, for the profite and commoditie of the ruder ſort (who vnderſtand not the Latin tongue) which Oration and Sermon, notwithſtanding, I purpoſe God willing, by the permiſſion of my Superiours, as it was once written and regiſtred at Roome

in the Latin tongue, so to write it a-gaine, and bring it to light. My intent and purpose is not, in writing this booke, to gape for popular applause, and to hunt after prayse: but to signifie to the world what I haue bene, and what I haue done. I haue been a member of the Romishe Church, as it is well knowne to many, who bothe knewe me, and were conuersant with me at Roome. And at my first comming to that Babilonicall Cittie, I was suspected to haue bene an Hereticke (for so tearme they Christian Catholiques) wherefore by the meanes of an English man, named Salomon Aldred, sometime a dweller in Birchen lane in London, who was maried, and had bene in my company in France, I was brought by Doctor Morice, prouider of the English Hospitall at Roome (for his owne discharge) to the house of the Romishe Inquisition. Where being examined in matters touching Religion, I confessed what I had bene in tyme past, an enimie to theyr Religion. When as by the proceese of my wordes, the Dominican Inquisitour had intelligence of

my

my former state. He commaunded Doctor Morice to bring me before him the day following, which was the. xxvi. day of Aprill, in the yeare of our Lord. 1578. So the morning after I came vnto him, with Doctor Morice: then the sentence of the fowre Cardinalles, which are appertayning to that office, was this, that I should write what I could (with free libertie of speeche and pardon graunted) against the Pope, and against his Religion. Being thus commaunded, as I would auoide the Popes indignation and displeasure, to write what I could against his swelling tytle and presumptuous name of supremacie: I spared neyther him, neyther yet, his vnstable Religion, as hereafter in the Sermon made at the cõmaũdement of the fowre Cardinals and this Dominican, it shall appeare. Which Sermon & Oration were brought before the Pope, and the rest of the Cardinals, being then in the Consistorie. Whẽ the Pope vnderstoode howe that I had bene reconciled to his Church before the time I came to Roome: he pardoned my trespasse, and gaue me a Signatura, not

forgetting to giue me thankes, and pro-
fessing friendship, he willed a Letter to
be written to the Rector of the Eng-
lish Seminarie, that he should ascribe
me to the number of the rest. And the
Letters being delinered and read, both
of him and Cardinall Morone, Protec-
tor of the English house: I was admit-
ted the. xviii. day of May, to the Socie-
tie of the English Students. For lo
much as the Religion of the Papists is
grounded vpon lyes, so can they do no-
thing else but lie, and report vntruelie.
Wheras a Salle-monger, who writeth
that he did not only knowe me, but al-
lyued with me, falsely reporteth in his
Lybell set out against me, That I was
recommended from Cardinall *Paleotto* of
Bolonia, to Doctor *Lewes*, that by his
meanes I might finde some releefe at
the Popes handes: this reporte is as
true, as nowe I am in Wales.

As touching Doctor Lewes, there was
not so much as one word spoken, much
lesse a Letter written vnto him: Wel
this is ỳ onely fruite of they^r Religion,
to speake more then trueth is, to slaun-
der him wrongfully, that doth degen-
rate

rate from them, to hate him vndeser-uedlie, that findeth out they⁊ treachery, maliciouſly to backbite him ẏ hath for-ſaken the dregges of their idolatrie. For that I haue with an vnfayned heart, re-noũced the Romiſh faith: what ſlaunde-rous repo⁊tes, the Papiſtes haue had of me: in what hatred they haue me? how maliciouſlie they ſpeake of me, God knoweth, from whome no ſecrete is hyde: and ſo do I, acknowledging my ſelfe cleere and free from thoſe crimes, wherewith I am vniuſtly accuſed, theſe they⁊ malicious and ſlaunderous rep⁊o-ches I haue p⁊ocured againſt me, for telling the trueth. And for the breach of the fowrth decree of Pope Leo, which was no crime in deede, for that the de-cree is vnlawfull. Should I excuſe the murther by this Pope committed, as the murthers of Sampſon? Should I commend the deuilliſhe p⁊actiſes, and cruell attempts of this Pope Gregorie, to haue the lyues of the true Chriſtians in the lowe Countries abreuiated, they⁊ countrie ſpoyled, they⁊ houſes burnt, they⁊ Cattell ſlaine, they⁊ Daughters raviſhed, they⁊ Sonnes murthred, euen

in the sight of their Fathers, and the Parentes eyther made slaues, or elis constrayned before the due course of nature, to yelde vp the ghost? Of all this calamitie, iniurie, and murther, the Pope is the onely cause and author. This I knowe to be true, this I am able to auouch, this I am not afraide to write. Should I prayse your Pope being an adulterer? or should I cloake his fault, as the adulterie of Iacob? Should I thinke your Pope to be a holie Virgin, hauing two Bastardes, the one made a Cardinall, the other a Marquesse the one a ruler of his Castle, Santo Angelo, the other Grand mon Signior of his abyding Pallace. Should I coullour his robberies, as the robbing of the Egiptians? what robberies hath he done in the Churches of Italie, to maintaine the English Seminaries, bothe at Roome and at Rheimes in Fraunce? he hath compelled the most part of all Abbottes, and Priours, and other Ecclesiasticall men to disburse him about a twelue month past, a summe of money.

Because I haue spoken truely, both

by your Pope and by you Papistes, therefore you maliciously slaunder me: but in the Booke of Pilgrimage, I wyll blaze out your armes, and so discouer your treacheries, the lynes of your Monkes, and Iesuites, among whome I haue lyued, shall be knowen to all England: the hypocrisie of your Cardinalles, and Bysshoppes, with whome I haue bene conuersant, no man there is but shall knowe.

The Sodomiticall life of your Prelats, repeate Monkes, Theatines, Iesuites, Cardinals, and Bysshops, and others, I will sound out with the larum bell: The discention of your Colledge, the emulation of the Englishe Studentes, the orders of the house, theyr manner of lyuing, theyr canckred hatred towardes theyr native Soyle: all these thinges recited in the Booke of Pilgrimage, shall be truely and not maliciously handeled, for the greater detestation of your forged and fayned Religion, sprong vp from couetousnesse and ambition.

I wyll haue an especiall care to the wordes which I shall write, least that in misreporting ought of you rashly, I incurre deseruedly, the displeasure of almighty God, and may not be free of infamy, and the hatred of such as haue been trauellers, who knew them selues many thinges to be true, which I intend to bring to light, iustly I should procure. I would thou Papist hadst the same minde, not to haue exceded the bondes and lymittes of trueth, because they thought to bring my name to discredit by theyr vntrueths, they thought it good to scatter abroade theyr lying Lybels, to the ende that some, who are weake of beleefe, and others which are inclyning to Papistrie, might reiect my writing, and make no accoumpt of my sayinges: howe false theyr Lybel was, you may reade as followeth.

The first vntrueth is this, that where as he vntruely reporteth: That I was brought vp in Poperie, and therein continewed, vntyll for pouertie, passing ouer the water into the Weste partes of Englande, I became a Minister: Which is as true, as thou art a true subiect to the

the Quénes Paieſtie, which is nothing ſo, for thou art an enimie to her Paieſtie, and to her procéedinges. It is well knowne that none of my frendes are Papiſtes, or that they ſhould bring me vp in Papiſtrie: It is not doubtfull to a hundred and not ſo fewe, that before I went to the Weſt countries, I ſtudied at Oxenford, & remained in White Hall, otherwiſe called Ieſus Colledge, one yére, and from thence I wét to Brazennoſe Colledge, from the which Colledge I departed, & came to my frends, and there in myne owne Countrey, I taught a certayne Gentlemans chyldren, for the ſpace of one yére & a halfe, and afterwardes I was made a Miniſter, and ſo paſſed ouer the waters, and ſerued a Cure which is named Withiecombe, vnder one Maiſter Iones, Vicar of Tauntone, and from that place I went to Whiteſtauntone, and there continewed vntyll the tyme I paſſed ouer the Seas. And where as thou writeſt, That by learning three or foure of Maiſter Northbrookes ſermons without booke, I got mee ſome credite for preaching: With Maiſter Northbrooke

I neuer had conference, neyther receyued any Sermon that euer he or any other made. Neyther were my wordes such at any time, that the people take me for a young Tobias, and a second Ionas. Neyther spake I at any time, that by meanes of simonie, I got me two Benefices. Your Religion consisteth on lyes, and you followe that Religion whereof the Deuill is Author, the father of all lyes: You haue Letters Patents, and you haue the Popes dispensation, to do with an Heretiche (for this name you attribute to euery Christian) what your lyst, and what your pleasure is, to discredite him if you may, or to hurt him if it lyeth in your power, or to subuert and ouerthrow the trueth of the sacred Gospell you wyll not cease. I know what you be, I haue liued amongst you, you can not further one good word to him that meaneth vprightly, & speaketh truely. Call to remembrance, haue you not vsed the lyke rayling speech, and the lyke slaunders against a godlie and learned defendour of Christ his trueth, Iohn Iwell Bishop of Salisbury? you were not ashamed (so impudent you are) to say,

say, that being mad, he preached at Salisburie, and was commaunded to come downe from the Pulpit, for that he rayled on the people. Moreouer, that he wrote against his conscience, and dyed a Papist: that his man had told him, that he cited a wrong place of the Doctours: notwithstanding he lightly setting by his words, would nedes cite a thing which was not expressed in the Doctours. What they speake of others, with silence I passe ouer, and how falsely they accuse them, all the world may iudge, reade their bookes against the lyues of faithfull and learned Ministers of God his holy word. I am not greeued verie much, for that they haue vniustly reported of me, I arme my self with patience. I know their cankred stomacks is ready to do me what displeasure they may, they are not able to proue the least iots of their Lybell. How can they proue that I haue had two Wiues? here be some in London, and not fewe in number, that lyued in that Towne where I lyued and was borne: And besides that, knewe me wheresoeuer I dwelt in England.

But

But neyther they nor any other, knew that euer I was maried, if they can proue that I was maried once, I wyll be they? bond man as long as I liue. If they can proue that I had two Wiues, I take but the extremitie of the lawe, yea, requyre death it selfe. I wyll tell them the places where my cheefest abode was in Wales or England. In the common Schooles that were in that Shire where I was borne, I was brought vp, vntyll I was of the age of sixtene yeres, and at that age I went to Oxenford, and from thence I returned backe againe to my Countrey, and abode at a place called Dureuen, and from thence I went to Summerset, and stayed at Withiecombe, from the which place I departed and came to Whitstantone, and from thence I departed and came to London, tooke shipping, and arriued at Antwerpe, where part of your Company abydeth, I lodged at an Inne not farre from the gate that goeth to Macklin.

In lying, he procéedeth farther: He sayth, that I became a Souldiour against the King, and vttered to the Prince of Orainge,

Orainge, part what posſiblie I could deuiſe, or what I heard in England againſt the King, and attempted many moſt malicious thinges that waye: And that I repo:ted not ſo, of my ſelfe mine Hoſteſſe (who is an Engliſhe woman) may remember, that there was a Scholer at her houſe, but not a Sowldiour, ſuch a one that gaue her Daughter a thymble in ſiluer, which I found in a Church: there I ſtayde not aboue fiue o: ſix dayes, but dy:ectly toke my voyage to Dowaie. And whereas you ſay, That I found releeſe at Cambraie, in dæd of certayne Flemmiſh Pælates, I receiued ſome bountifulneſſe, but of Engliſh men found no relæſe, fo: ſcarſe they were able to relæue them ſelues, ſo lytle eſtæmed they were of Citizens, who fo: the greater part were Chriſtians. And fo: that you falſely ſay, That I fell into the hands of the Kinges ſide: That is as true as you ſaye, that you p:ay fo: the Quæne of England, where as you p:ay rather fo: the Quæne of Scottes, as hereafter it ſhall appeare. And where as you ſaye that I repo:ted at Rheimes, That I was driuen out of Englande, for my

my conscience sake. Who would thinke that I reported thus? where as before some of the Scholers, I feared not to pronounce our Quæne supreame head of England, and bæing examined of what Religion I was, I aunswered, a Protestant, for speaking the which wordes I was banished the Towne. And Doctor Allen, with the whole Seminarie, were commaunded to appære before the Consuls, and Captaines of the Towne, and were like to be banished out of the Towne, onely for that they thought that the English men had succoured me, bæing a Christian. As for relæfe, I found not as much as a farthing, except a dinner amongst certaine English Prælles, who kept such a rayling against my Lord Bacon who is dead, and whome they sayd should frie in hell: and against Sir Frauncis Walsingham, and against my Lord Burley, and against diners others, whome they sayd, God would condempne and iudge to euerlasting paine. This dinner dyd me but lyttle good, for they were in a pelting chafe against the wise and faithfull belæuers of Christ his Gospell: they

were

were angrie also with me, for that I had sworne by the Masse, and had spoken a worde or two in defence of Christian Religion.

From this Cittie I went to Granoble, and there staydc with an Archbishop three monthes, and from him I trauelled to Italie, and dwelt with the Bishoppe of Vigeuena, whose name is Alexander Cazalis, ỳ Popes Protonotarie, and kept all his Plate in custodie, and who would haue giuen to me a Canonshipp, if I would haue staid with him during lyfe: which thing to be true, your selues know that were Prælles at Roome, for thereof the Bishoppe wrote a Letter, and sent his man with me to Millaine to Doctor Parkar, who also wrote a Letter to the Scholers of the English Seminarie. This his loue towardes me did I not obtaine in speaking vntruely, but for that he had bene a traueller him selfe to forraine Countries, and had tried aduersitie him selfe, as he fell into the handes of his enimies, vpon which cõsideration he tooke compassion on me, beeing a straunger, and in pouertie.

Moreouer, whereas thou writest, That I slaundered the lyues of the Bishops, Ministers, and other professours of England. That is as true as they saye, that it is lawfull to rebell against our Soueraigne, for I neuer misreported of any Bishoppes Chaplaines: how could I tell how Bishops & Ministers lyued? I neuer was conuersant with them: As for other Ministers, I must nedes confesse thus much I spake, that in the beginning of this Queens raigne when Ministers were somewhat scant, through occasion well knowen, then there were certaine honest zealous men of occupatiō, who supplied the rome for a time, but afterward by ỹ godly care of the Bishops, were otherwise prouided for, & learned men placed in their rome, which being so nere driuen by casualty of the time, vpon the great godlinesse & earnest zeale of such men, did so order it while til they were better prouided for.

But whereas thou saydest, That I of mine owne freewill went to the Inquisition, to obtayne greater credite: This is as true as thou sayest, That I presented my selfe, and accused my selfe that I had

had beene a Papist: Where as it is well knowen, I was taken at Islington, and brought by a Pursuiuant to the right honourable Sir Frauncis Walsingham, and by his commaundement was sent to the Bishop of London, and from him I was brought by the Pursuiuant to the Towre of London.

So, as before I haue declared, I was brought suspected an Heretick at Rome by Doctor Morice, to the Inquisition. But where as thou sayest, I neuer ceased very spytefully, to detract and speak euyll of the Protestants: this is as true as the rest. But this I confesse, that I much discõmended the liues of such who outwardly bare great show of zealous Protestantes, and inwardly were craftie and dissembling Papists, when they came in companye with any Protestants, then they were as zealous as they themselues. but when they came in conference with Papists: they were as earnest in conscience as they likewise, carrying in one hand both fire and water, to deceiue the ignorãt that did not mistrust them, & to fede the Diuell with that he would haue, against this

enormitie I did not a little inueigh, for that I thought it worthy of all reprehension. But as for otherwise defaming the Protestants, thy wordes are most vntrue, and I neuer opened my mouthe to vse any such spæches.

Moreouer, whereas you say: That I delighted in flattery. This you speake of malice, and not of trueth, for I seeke to flatter none for preferment sake, as thou sayst I do. Because I speake the trueth by thee, and such as thou art, therefore thou sayst I flatter: I gape not for preferment, neyther for any worldly pelfe, I will be contented with Gods prouidence, as he hath ordeyned, so shall it be with me: happe well, or happ ill, the Lords name be praysed. To flatter any man for exhibition sake, I intent it not, let them do as they list, and as God shall put in their mindes.

Whether I liue in mysterie, or else otherwise, Gods wil I am not to resist, but accept all thinges patiently, and speake well of the name of the Lorde, who scourgeth whom he will, and fauoureth whom he will.

And moreouer: Thou counterst me

no

no better then halfe a foole, as others maye easilie perceaue, if they make tryall of mee. Truelie, I confesse I had rather be counted a foole, and profesle the trueth: then be named a wise man, and committe idolatrie. The tyme hath beene, that bothe thou and thy fellowes had good hope of me, that I should be an instrument to maynteine your idolatrous and superstitious Religion.

And where as thou sayst: That I was vnable to goe foreward in Logicque, or Philosophie. This proceaded not of the rudenesse of my capacitie: but of the mallice which Father Ferdinando, (the Prefect of the Englishe Seminarie) bare to the Welshmen: There were Batchelers of Arte, not permitted to beginne theyr course of Logicque or Philosophie, which is an vsuall thing at Roome for Batchelers, yea, & Maisters of Arte, eyther to be permitted to heare Rhetorique, or to beginne Logicque. And wheras thou writest, that I wrote in my booke: That I preached before the Pope. I wrote no such things, the booke is extant, who that wyll may reade it.

Gentle Reader, to excuse the fault of the Printer, and to discharge my selfe of the Papistes obiection against me in this point: I giue you to vnderstand, that he mistooke him selfe, in printing a Sermon preached before the Pope, whereas I wrote it, a Sermon presented before the Pope. Wherfore I desire pardon for his offence, and mine owne negligence, in not vsing more respect in that place.

And there he shall finde that my wordes are thus in effect: I made an Oration and a Sermon at Roome, which was presented before the Pope and all his Cardinalles, with diuers other in the Consistorie. And the same Oration and Sermon (which was my Recantation called) and for the which the Pope gaue me thankes, & registred it in three great volumes, in the house of Inquisition. These wordes I spake, and these wordes are true: and there is one in London, who was at Roome then, and knewe of this my doing, & knew me also, who will affirme the same to be true. Thou writest moreouer: That with vaine brags, I extoll the Sermon which I made at Roome in the English Seminarie, vpon Saint *Peters* day last, *Ad vincula*. Thou art deceyued, I bragge not thereof, I made mention thereof onely for this cause, to signifie to the Readers, howe within three dayes after, I became sicke, and dispayred of my saluation, for that I mistrusted many points of that Romish Religion, and could not tell whether they were true or false. And where thou saist: That it was an exercise that Grammarians

marians vse. I studied positiue Diuinitie, and not Grammar, nor neuer dyd at Roome, and it was an exercise which the students in Diuinitie vsed. And where as thou sayst: Thou knowest who was at it, and laughed to heare such ridiculous stuffe as that was. To speake a worde or two to make laughter: it is the part of an Oratour, and it is the part of a Preacher.

But the same Latin Sermon dyd so content them at that present tyme, that they doubted not to saye, but that I should peruert many in England, and should become a profitable seruant to the Pope, and his Romish Sinagogue. How father Minister, a graue and learned Iesuite, commended my doings, and sayd I was one of the best Orators among all the whole rowt of Students: And as for to speake Latin, I taught ỳ most part of them all to speake true Latin, although they were farre from any Ciceronian phrase. They haue such blockheads that studie Philosophie, that in talke they vse an Accusatiue case, in stede of a Nominatiue, and the Masculine, in stede of a Feminine gender,

and I wyll name them for your sakes, Maister Dodipol Oliuerius, Maister Doctor, Doctor (I would say) Mushe, with twētie more: they are not able to make a true construction, betwixt the Nominatiue case, and the Verbe, the Substantiue and the Adiectiue, the Relatiue and his Antecedent. Yet for all that, by meanes of their deepe Philosophie, they thinke to ouer-crowe our Studentes, heere in England. They that studie Diuinitie (when they are commaunded to make such an Exhortation as I haue done often, in your Seminarie of mischeefe, for I can not say of learning, or yet of vertue, I would I could,) they ascend vp to the Pulpit with a brazen face, or a fooles vizarde: but they descende with shame, and with discommendation, some haue I seene of your company iollie Champions, went about to preach, but were not able to prosecute their matter: Wherefore they came downe from the Pulpitts, and left halfe their Sermons vnsayde, for that they had forgotten the residue of their Sermon: eyther for that they quaffe too much Wine, or else that they

they had supt too much pottage. Except two (according to the report of Father Minister) of whome I spake, and who some after Saint Peter, ad Vincula, his day dyed: There was not one amongst three score, that coulde preache as well as our common Taylors and Shomakers in England.

In deede, they excelled them in one point, for that they obserued more guyle and deceipt in their preaching, to intrap our Englishe men in the snares of Idolatrie: then men of Occupation in persuading the people to decline from papistrie.

And whereas verie impudentlie thou sayst: I was a common game to the rest of the Studentes, who made me often to mount on a stoole, and to preach to them the Sermons, which I had vttered in England. Thine owne fellowes, such as are taken, denie the same to be true, as they do the rest of the cheefest pointes of thy infamous Lybell: he that was my Chamber fellowe, maye reporte this to be a lye, as the rest of thy Articles.

If he report truely, this is all, that he or any other is able to avouch: That being merelie disposed, I once (but never afterwardes) stode vpon a stole, (as the Iesuits do when they preach, standing vpon bulks, or else vpon stoles) and demaunded of him, who is nowe prisoner in ỳ Towre, to give me what Theame he would, and so he dyd, and there vpon made a discourse Extempore. Wherefore it is vntruth, to report that I preached a Sermon, vttered once before in England, and to say that I dyd it oftner then once. The lyke thing many of you haue done, whose names I could recite: but because ỳ matter is of no more importance, I will not name them at all. God man lyer, (I knowe not thy name, for that thou hast not written it, belike thou wert ashamed to name thy selfe, least thou mightest be taken, and thy treacheries espied.)

Wheras thou sayst, That I lingred behinde my fellowes, at a Towne in *Vmbria*, called *Fuligno*. That is as true as the Pope hath made thee a Cardinal, for I left them & their bay Horse, ouerladen with the Popes blessinges: hauing a

græuous

greuous diſeaſe, and not able to goe, in the plaine feeldes I forſoke your company. And if ſo be that this ſickneſſe had not chaunced vnto me: yet had I occaſion offred me to forſake their company, for they made me pay eleuen Iulyes for ſeuen, and cauſed me to pay for their mans charges as well as they. What charity you pelting & wandering Pallemongers haue, I wyll declare.

There came this laſt Summer, a Northen Scholer to Roome, who could not be admitted to the Colledge, but the Rector taking compaſſion on him, wylled the fowre Priſſes (whereof I ſuſpecte thee to be one) who went in my company (for three dayes ſpace) to giue this poore Scholer a Crowne a peece, among whome alſo I gaue him a Crowne. But howe vncharitably they vſed him in the iourney for three dayes, you may reade as followeth.

They cauſed him all the way to leade their Horſe by the bryde, or to driue him forwardes, yet would they not pay for the mans meate, nor ſuffer him to ryde, beeing verie ſicke, and ſcarſe able to ſtande on his feete, and payde

more

more then a Stranger would haue pa
vnto them.

The thirde day of our iourney, it
befell when I departed from them
that this youth was so faint, that h
layd him selfe downe on the ground,
the middle of the fields, not able
moue a foote farther. When th
sawe that he was able to leade the
Horse no longer: they forsooke hi
not bydding him farewell, neyth
giuing him so much as the value of a
small pennie.

Behold what charitie Papistes ha
behold they? inhumanitie, to they? ow
countrey-man: Here in England, th
shewe such counterfeytholinesse, tha
mã would scarse thinke that they wou
play the Varlettes, they deceyue t
people wounderfullie. But if our En
lishe men had bene so much conu
sant among them as I haue bene, a
had tryed they? manners as I ha
done: they would beware howe
giue credite to such hypocriticall fa
lowes. But if our countrey ma
wyll beestowe the reading of the boo

of Pilgrimage, I wyll lyuelie paint forth the craftie and subtiltie of our Englishe Studentes beyond the Seas, I will describe the horrible abuses crept into the Churche of Roome, which I haue seene with mine eyes, and vnderstode of many that were credible persons.

And whereas thou sayst: That the first Sunday after my comming to the Tower, I refused to repayre to the Church. I graunt it so to be. But whereas thou sayst: The second Sunday following, I pronounced this Recantation of mine, which is nowe in print: That is as true as a Catte bringeth forth whelpes, for Maister Lieuetenant and my Keper, with many moe, knowe that to be vntrue.

And whereas thou sayst: That if I shall want preferment heere, I wyll goe beyond the Seas againe. Who wyll beleeue this to be true? whereas I haue beene once pardoned already, for that I haue beene of the contrarie Religion, all men knowe that the Popishe lawes are against them that reuolte twyse from their Religion.

If

If I returned vnto Roome againe, to the Popes dominions: I should condemned, eyther to the fire, or to Gallies. Wherfore I meane to abi in England, hap well or hap yll, Eng land hath no fellowe, better it is to li in powertie, then to be whipped on t Seas, and to be taught to rowe, haun therevnto as good towardnesse, as To Collier thy fathers man.

And where as more impudentlie th an Asse thou writest: That the mi parte of my reportes, touching yo treacheries and malicious practises, gainst the Queenes Maiestie, and her h nourable Councell, is vntrue. I wrote any thing otherwise then t trueth was: why dydst thou not ma mention thereof, that I might ha purged my selfe of infamie, and w trueth? But I wrote no more tha trueth gaue place: but in the booke Pilgrimage I wyll discouer, God wy ling more at large, your treasonab attemptes, against the Crowne an dignitie, against her honourable Coun cell, and against her common weal

I haue ſpoken, and do ſpeake, and wyll ſpeake nothing elſe but trueth of you: But it is as harde a thing to beare trueth of you, as it is for the Pope to giue his Miter away to poore beggers. And finally, where as thou concludeſt thy Lybell with theſe wordes: That there ſhall neuer want vacabounds and runnagates for gaine. If thou wylt haue theſe wordes to haue relation to thy ſelfe, and to thy brothers (who in deede are Vacabounds and runnagates from Tauerne to Tauerne, from Towne to Towne, from Shiere to Shiere.) Thou ſayſt well and truely, and I goe not about to diſproue thy wordes: but if thou meaneſt of me, I am no runnagate, I ſtay in one place, and am not afrayde to ſhewe my face, in the preſence of you all, if I could tell where to finde you. But you are not farre vnlyke to the theeues, who in the day tyme ſkape or lurke in Caues, and in the night tyme raunge abroade. I thinke you mete bothe together on the plaines of Salisburie: the theefe he ſeketh but the purſe, but you are not contented

with

with the purse, but seeke to bereaue a man of his body and soule. We had more neede by a great deale (if we had respect to the safetie of our bodies and soules) to take heede that we be not deceyued, by the craftie iugling of these wandering Popish Priests.

Thus haue I aunswered to euery particular Article contayned in the infamous Lybell against me written, and I thought it good to containe the same in this Epistle written vnto you worshipfull Company, for this cause onely. For that they say: That I attempted many most malicious thinges, betweene the Prince of *Orainge*, and the King of *Spaine*. If you heare and vnderstand it of credible persons, that I was such a fellowe as they report me to be: I desire you, as not compelled, to make mention thereof in your Letters, and conuay it to London. I am sure and certaine, that there is no man can auouch that I was such a fellowe, as they make me to be. I confesse my life hath beene wicked and lewde, but neuer so wickedlie and lewdlie bent, as the

Papists dw repoꝛt. They say, I am irreligious, I am altogether giuen to vngodlinesse, God hath forsaken me, there is no hope of my saluation. This is but theyꝛ rashe iudgement, God forgiue them, I wishe them well to dw, God graunt them a penitent heart, and a tongue to speake trueth. I am not the first that hath bene wꝛongfullie slaundeꝛed, noꝛ shall be the last.

There is a Popishe Pꝛest here in England, that repoꝛted that he knewe him selfe, bothe noble men, woꝛshipfull, and Pꝛeachers here in this Land, to be of the householde of Atheisme: But as I told, so tell I againe, that Papists can doo nothing elle but lye, and falselie repoꝛt.

I leaue here to trouble you any farther, being otherwise occupied with waighties affayꝛes, then to obtaine litte oppoꝛtunitie and leasure to peruse this rude Letter of mine. Pꝛay that I may stand fast to the gloꝛie of his name, and the good example of others, whose lyke conuersation I dw heartily wishe in the Loꝛd.

And

To the worshipfull Company

And so desiring your good prayers to Iesus Christe (worshipfull Company) to assist me with his grace, that I may perseuere in this his gratious calling, to the end, and in the end: The Lord Iesus gouerne and guide you, in true obedience of his glorious Gospell, to the glorie of his name. Amen.

Your fellow seruant in the Lord. *Iohn Nichols.*

The Oration made at Roome, before the towre Cardinalles of the Inquisition, and the Dominican Inquisitour, presented also before the Pope, the.xxvii. day of May. 1578.

You commaunded me (most illustrious, and most reuerend Cardinalles) to write what I could against our holie Father the Pope, and against the Catholique faith. What your meaning is herein, I knowe not, if you seeke to knowe what learning I haue, I confesse I haue none: the time of my studies in the flourishing Vniuersities of England, hath beene but short, my maintenance in other common Schooles dured but for a small space of time, wherfore neither in the Vniuersities, neither yet abroade in the countrie, could I reape any sound and vnconfused knowledge in good Letters, therefore you may easilie be persua-

ded, that if you require of me that which you would of a learned Scholer demaund, my want of learning, and rudeneſſe of inuention is ſuch: that I can not ſufficiently, whereas I gladly would accompliſhe your requeſt according to your minde. If your deſire be to vnderſtand, howe in times paſt liuing in blindneſſe and errour. (Marke heere, I counted the bright & ſhining beames of Chriſt his Goſpell blindneſſe, and the preaching thereof, the preaching of errour,) I ſubuerted, corrupted and prophaned as much as I could, the doctrine of our holie mother the Church, *Scilicet*. If you are deſirous to knowe wherein I haue offended our holie Father the Pope, and wherin I haue more raſhly thē wiſely, ſpoken againſt the catholique Religion: to obey your cōmaundement, I did what I could, to put in writing ſuch words as I vſed againſt him and his Religion, and truſting to your

woon-

woonted clemencie in forgiuing my treſpaſſe, I write as boldlie, as if I were in England: if I did not ſo, your commaundement ſhould not be accompliſhed. Wherefore, how ſo euer I ſpeake, be not greeued, and turne not therefore your fatherly fauour from me: the fault is not in me to write the thing commaunded, I write what I ſpake, whiles that I lyued in England, and I ſpake as I was taught: nowe I write that which I hate, but ſpake then that which I lyked. This is a newe metamorpheſis, of a Collier, to become a Scholler, of a plow-man, a Preacher, and of an heretique to become a catholique: there are colliers that haue gon to ſchoole, & haue read there is but one God, one Baptiſme, & one faith in Ieſus chriſt, & why are they not ſchollers? There are plow-men that can teache theyr houſehold, to loue God aboue all things, & to loue one another as god loued vs, and gaue his only begotten

ſonne, to reconcile vs vnto him beeing his enimies, tranſgreſſours of his holie law and commaundement, and are they not Preachers? Heretiques will become catholiques, if they conſider and examine the corrupt lyuing of babling Preachers, their vſurping of Eccleſiaſticall liuinges, their ambition to higher degrees of promotion, their vnſatiable and inordinate couetouſneſſe, their proude and ſtatelie going in ruffian-like apparell, their too much pampering of hungrie gorges, their exceſsiue lauiſhneſſe in riotous expences, their vnſtableneſſe of promiſe, their ſwearing and forſwearing them-ſelues, for the value of a ſtrawe, their wanton and laſciuious ſongs vpon ale-benches: and finally, pōdering of their diſſolute behauior, in words & geſture: If they teach the people one thing, and doo an other, what hope can the people haue to be ſaued? what comfort doo they receiue? what confidence are they boūd

to

to giue to his preaching, or to his glorious wordes? howe can he abolishe sinne, ouerthrowe God his enimies, treade downe Sathan, roote out idolatrie, confound hell, and establishe trueth? howe can the Gospell encrease, righteousnesse shine, God haue the glorie? if Ministers should be the example of all euill, to whome (as they saye) the worde of God is cõmitted, to instruct the people how to please the Lord, and maker of heauẽ and earth, in all holinesse and righteousnesse all the dayes of their liues.

Is it maruaile that the people doo amisse, and swerue from the trueth? truelie, I am thorowlie persuaded, that as they are farre from God, in life and conuersation: so farre they are from him in faith and good Religion: if their Religion sauoured not of heresie, would God punishe them as he dooth? What contrarietie in Religion is there amongst them? one

professeth this doctrine, and another professeth that: one crieth, *Ecce hic est Christus, Ecce ibi est*. Behold heere is Christe, sayth one, and we haue the best Religion, though the Pope say naie. But the other sayth, no, they haue not the trueth on their side: this faith whereupon we build, this Religion whereunto we trust, euerie man of what degree so euer, high or lowe, poore or ritch, noble or ignoble, ioyfully ought to embrace, and gladlie receyue. By this Religion we shall be blessed, and inherite an euerlasting crowne of heauenlie glorie. One saith, he is a Zwinglian, and an other sayth, he is an Annabaptist, one sayth he is a Lybertine, and an other sayth, he is a Puritane, one sayth, he is a Caluinist, and an other sayth, he is a Lutherane. Good God, howe many Religions be there? if there were many Gods, I would not woonder at their varietie in Religion.

But

But seeing there is but one God, who made all thinges, hath ordayned all thinges in a dewe order, the Sunne to rule by daye, the Moone by night, the earth to bring foorth her encrease, and the waters not to passe their dewe boundes, who ruleth all thinges, and at whose becke all thinges doo appeare, in whome we haue our life, our beeing and essence: VVhy should there be such diuersitie in Religion, such varietie in opinions, such contrarietie in matters touching our saluation? There is but one GOD, there ought to be but one Religion. There is but one trueth, what needeth so many dissentions, so many controuersies, and so many alterations from the trueth? But their life is so wicked and prophane, so rechlesse and lewde, that they wyll haue their Religion correspondent and agreeable to their conuersation.

He that is rocked in the cradle of ſinne and ſecuritie, he that is nuſled in wantonnes, and brought vp in delightes, he that is choaked with worldlie cares of this life, he, whoſe bellie is his god, he, whoſe money is his onelie ioye, and he, whoſe land is his onely truſt: regardeth more theſe corruptible & fleeting vanities, then the incorruptible and immutable treaſures of heauēlie Paradiſe. He, whoſe whole truſt and confidence is in ſenſible pleaſures, muſt be depriued of inſenſible delightes. He, whoſe care is greater to become ritch, and ſtately in the ſight of the world, then to become poore in ſpirite, and meeke in conuerſation: paſſeth not much what Religion to profeſſe, ſo that his ſtate be not impaired, but rather to higher dignitie promoted. Howe eſteemeth he Religion, which obſtinatelie perſiſteth in ſinne, walloweth in ſenſualitie, and liueth in wickedneſſe? is he religious, which carefully obſer-

obſerueth not the lawes of the moſt righteous and almighty God, but liueth ſecurelie without all feare of his maieſtie ? In verie deede, the life, deedes, and conuerſation of heretiques doo plainlie ſhewe, that they more abhorre and feare the odious name of an Epicure or Saduceie, then they doo the nature. For what think they the ſoule to be immortall, who liue not farre better then the brutiſh beaſts, which follow nature, but they degenerate from nature, and are by reaſon of their corrupt life, inferiour to the beaſts of the feeld ? Be they perſuaded, that God rewardeth the godly in heauen, or puniſheth ſinners in hell with endleſſe torments? In euery trifling thing they dread not to violat the cõmaundements of God, and run headlong into ſinne: euen as though they did either thinke that God were but a vaine & fayned thing, or beleue that when the body dieth, the ſoule likewiſe periſheth, and commeth vn-

to

to nothing. They liue so idle, careleſſe and ſecure in their callinges: that GOD muſt ſurelie plague them at length, and bring them to confuſion. They reſpect the ſafetie, and proſperitie of their bodies heere on earth, rather then the ſaluation of theyr ſoules, in the kingdome of Chriſt. They rather obey the wordes of *Cambyſes*, for temporall gaine, then the warning of Chriſt, for eternall happineſſe. Whereby it comes to paſſe, that they haue commonlie fayre bodies, but deformed ſoules, much goodes, but little goodneſſe: and glorious they ſeeme in the ſight of men outwardlie, but odious inwardlie in the eyes of God. For it is harde to finde a man (ſayth *Ariſtotle*) *Lib. 2. Rhet. 1. ad Theodetem. Cap. 10.* vvhich in proſperitie is not proude, diſdainfull and arrogant: of which ſort are they, whome clients, whome auethoritie, whome fauour of men hath exalted: and ſo enioying theyr hearts

heartes desire, they are of minde, that no aduersitie can hurte them. And, what is that as *Dauid* sayde? *The vngodlie hath sayde in his heart, tushe, I shall neuer be cast downe, there shall no euill happen vnto me.*

But the fayrest Oke, is soonest cast downe: the fattest Oxe, is readiest for slaugher: *And the felicitie of fooles, is their owne destruction* (sayth *Salomon.*) *Prouer. Chap. 1. Psalm. 73. For howe suddenlie doo they consume, vanishe, and come to fearefull ende? yea, euen as a dreame are they, when one awaketh. Lorde, when thou raysest the dead, thou wylt despise their Image.*

Thou wylt punishe them, and reward them according to their deserts, if they wyll not amend, and timelie bee conuerted to the trueth, and hartelie embrace the Decrees, and constitutions of our holye Mother the Churche.

God

God will surelie one daie be reuenged on them, not onely in hell with euerlasting paine: but also in this life with infinit miseries, and a laborinth of intricate euyls. VVhat doo I say? one day, yea, God already for their wickednesse and sliding from our holie Mother the Church, hath greeuouslie afflicted them, and brought them to extreeme calamities, wretchednesse and desolation? With how many troubles, with how many vexations of minde, and with how many sorrowes, hath God punished the heretiques in Flaunders? for their hautie stomackes, and disloyaltie to their natural King, for their stubbornes in not receiuing clemencie offered vnto them, and for their wilfulnes in reiecting the same: for their contemning of the Catholique faith, and for their following, I cannot tell, nor they them selues: vvhat Religion, so vnstable and vnconstant their opinion is, in matters of faith. God hath

stir-

ſtirred vp the Catholiques againſt them, their ſtrength is feebled, their fayre buildinges made euen with the ground, their coffers are opened, and their gold and ſiluer fyll the purſes of their aduerſaries: their coſtlie houſehold ſtuffe, their hangings, their trim attyre, their cloath of Tiſſue, and whatſoeuer thing elſe they haue, is taken away. Their cattell is driuen from them, their corne is burnt, and in ſumme, they them ſelues, are eyther iuſtlie made bonde-men and ſlaues, or elſe wretchedlie and ruſullie ſlaine. So that now after Gods iuſt reuengement, they are become the outcaſt, and the verie ſcum of the earth: they are baniſhed out of their owne countrey, and can finde no abiding place to reſt: they are a fable vnto all the world for their newe inuented hereſies, their ſtate and condition is not far better then the Iewes, and their puniſhmēt doth not much differ the one from the other: the he-

retiques

retiques, and the *Iewes* are hated a lyke, are persecuted a lyke, and are punished heere in this worlde a lyke. But heerein, the *Iewes* and the Heretiques doo differre in sinne: the *Iewe* sinneth ignorauntlie, and obstinatelie, but Heretiques sinne not ignorauntlie, but obstinatelie, and wilfullie. The *Iewes* neuer knewe Christe, neuer beleeued in him, nor neuer tooke him to be the sauiour of the worlde: The Heretiques acknowledged Christe to be the onelie begotten sonne of GOD, beleeued in him, and tooke him to be theyr *Messias* or *Iesuah*. But in swerueing from the Catholique fayth, they haue lost the knowledge of Christe, their faith is frustrate, and in vaine: Their taking of Christe to be their sauiour, can nothing auayle them, can stande them in no steede.

And why? they haue denied the Pope to be Supreame head, they haue

haue renounced the Traditions of the Apoſtles, the Councelles they deſpiſe. the auctorities of the graue and learned Fathers, they diſallowe: and to be breefe, the Lawes of our holie Mother the churche, they haue contempned; and contrary ſayd them.

VVherefore their ſinne is not excuſable, and more greeuouſlie to be puniſhed in hell: then the obſtinate ignoraunce of the *Iewes*, for not receyuing Chriſte to be theyr redeemer. If this fayth, whereby we hope to be ſaued, which is the Catholique faith, were not the true and ſubſtantiall faith? whereof mention is made in our Creede, where as it is ſayde: *I beleeue in the holie Catholique Churche*. And what church is this? is it not that, for the which ſo many Martirs, ended their vitall breath, before the due courſe of nature?

So

So many in wylderneſſe lead a moſt auſteare life, lyued in penurie and ſcarſitie, glad they were to ſuſtaine their lyues, with rootes and water: they forſooke the world, with all the pompe and gliſtering ſhewes therof, they bridled their carnall affections and ſenſuall luſtes: the deuill with all his ſubtill temptations, they ouercame with faſting and prayer. What doo they beleeue, that theſe holie Hermites are all condempned, for that they haue beleeued the church of *Roome*, to be the holie catholique Church, and the Pope to be the head and cheefe Sheepheard thereof?

Haue ſo many Monkes, ſo many Friers erred? who wrought ſo many charitable deedes, ſo often faſted, ſo often prayed, ſo often called vnto God for grace and helpe, ſo brotherlie exhorted the wicked to amendement of lyfe, ſo freendlie harboured the harborleſſe, cloathed the naked, fed the hungrie, viſited the ſicke, helped

ped the poore prisoners, and redeemed the captiues, forsooke their lyuinges, and gaue them selues onelie to contemplation.

VVere all these reprobate ? doo they all suffer tormentes in hell for euer, neuer to enioy the glorious contemplation of Gods heauenlie countenaunce ? is this the rewarde which they haue for all their holinesse, for their vpright dealinges, for their timerous conscience to offend their neighbour, and beeing by some mischaunce offended, to aske him forgiuenesse, and to render a satisfaction ? Shall good workes reape no better reward, then among the dampned ? should this their reward, be euerlastinglie to rue in hell ? If, as the heretiques say, their faith was Antichristian-like, and contrarie to Gods word. Beleeue this who that will, and let him be an heretique therefore : I beleeue they were holie men, and for their holinesse and

catholique Religion, were crowned with an incorruptible crowne of perpetuall blisse, in heauenlie ioye. If the Religion of our holie Mother the Church were nought? then in vaine haue so wany Saintes serued the Lord, honoured him, and kept his commaundementes? in vaine haue so many Virgins, intruded them-selues to Monasteries, sequestring, and estraunging them-selues from the societie of seculer women? in vaine haue they reserued their virginitie, forsaking wealthy and rich mariages: in vaine haue they chastised their bodies, subduing and bringing them to subiection? in vaine haue they liued, and in vaine haue they beleeued, if for the confession of the Catholique Church of *Roome*, damnation bothe of body and soule should be then their reward? So many Preests, so many Leuits, so many Kinges, so many Princes, so many Potentates, so many Magistrates, haue

haue liued in vaine, and in vaine was their faith, who were no happier then the Gentiles in *Cicero* his time, to be condemned with the heathen Gentiles, since the beginning of the faith of Christe. Onely perishing in soule and bodie, for that their faith depended of the Catholique faith, of our holie Mother the Churche. Empires, Kingdomes, Prouinces, Islands, Cities, and Townes, beleeued in the Church of *Roome*, which is the holy Catholique Church: and are they all condemned therefore? and haue they all liued in blindnesse, and errour? and hath Christe beene so vniust of his promise, neuer to fayle his Church? and haue his woordes beene so vntrue, that the holie Ghost should direct the Catholique Church in all her dooinges? howe was the Church directed, if all the people erred?

How should Christ beeing the way, the trueth and life, neuer fayle his Spowse: if he suffered her to decline from him, who is the trueth? Christ his wordes are true: *Cælum et terra peribunt, sed verba eius remanebunt vera in æternum.* Heauen and earth shall perishe, but his wordes shall remaine true for euer.

Though the heretiques prate, or speake neuer so much against the trueth, Christe hath euermore instructed the churche of Roome. Though *Martin Luther*, and *Iohn Caluin* write to the contrarie, who make them-selues more familliar with Christe, and more priuie to his secretes, then euer the Apostles were, who were conuersant with Christe liuing on earth. But *Luther* and *Caluin* not so: they make men beleeue that their Forefathers liued in blindnesse and errour, euen from the time of the Apostles, vntyll their dayes.

dayes . O happie mothers, to be conceyued , and to be deliuered of ſuch fortunate children, and to bring them vp in ſuch good lytterature, that they ſhould become the lampes of the world, the Teachers of the ignorant.

I haue written I can not tell what: naie, I ſay, O vnhappie mothers, to haue ſuch vnluckie children, good it had beene for them, and for their children, if they plaide vppon one ſtring , that they neuer had beene borne . Their chyldren were the inſtrumentes of Sathan, to ſeduce the fooliſh and worldlie people, they were the cauſe, why that many loſt their liues vntimelie, heere in this world : As in *Fraunce*, thouſands were ſlaine, in *Germanie* foure ſcore thouſand at once: in *Flaunders*, I knowe not howe many : beſides other Countreyes , infinite was the number of them that were ſlaine,

drowned and burnt : I knowe not for what Religion, nor I thinke they them-ſelues knewe, but why they were thus cut of, their pride abated, their mallice aſſwaged, and their deuiſes confounded: I partlie knowe, it was, for that they denied the ſupremacie of our holie Father the Pope, God woulde needes giue the ouerthrowe to his enimies, and graunt victorie to his generall Vicar heere on earth. If his title had not beene good, he had not preuailed thus againſt his enimies, he had not ſo often gotten the feelde, and brought his enimies to ſhame and confuſion.

VVhat ſhall I ſaye of Englande, my natiue Soyle? it contemneth, deſpiſeth, and little embraceth the trueth, lyttle regardeth the Catholique faith: blinde ignoraunce, and a *Chaos*, or a heape of all kinde of hereſies, greatlie there preuayleth.

leth. Howe many be there that wot not whome to beleeue, whome to call vpon, or what trade of lyfe they ought to leade? VVickedneſſe, iniquitie, cogging and couzening, and the corruption of this monſtrous Realme, are horrible great: the bleſſed doctrine of God (the onely true foode) nourture, direction, and rule of mans lyfe, is little knowne, little ſet by, and little followed.

God is long before he puniſheth, but when he commeth: he puniſheth with an iron rodde, and ſharplie ſcourgeth them for their ſinnes, vnleſſe they repent, whyle it is tyme. They may looke for the lyke puniſhment, troubles, and myſeries, as were laide vpon the *Iewes*, and which they ſuffered deſeruedlie, for the hardeneſſe of theyr heartes, and for theyr vnbeleefe.

Least that I wearie your chaste eares (most woorthy Cardinalles) with tediousnesse, I make an ende, craiuing pardon for my greeuous trespasse, and heynous offence against our holy father the Pope, and against our holy mother the Church.

God preserue your Graces, to the holding vp of his Church, to the vanquishing of your enimies, who at the first as bubbles of the water, ryse vp and florish for a whyle: then by and by fall downe and appeare no more. Who at the first rule the roast in many places, as *Arrian* the heretique did: but I am affraide, their ende shal be as *Arrians* was, if not in this life, yet in the life to come: for *Arrian* auoided his guttes, as he went to auoide the excrementes of his bodie.

If our heretiques die not thus, yet they may die after a wurse sort. If God in this life plagueth them not, let

let them tremble and quake for feare, leaſt bothe bodies and ſoules abide the greater tormentes in hell. They haue but a tyme to raygne and rule, and beleeue what they lyſt.

The *Pellagians* had a time, and proſpered for a whyle, againſt the Church of *Roome*, but by little and little, their hereſie decaied: The *Marcioniſtes* fought for a while againſt the Church of *Roome*: but in continuance of tyme, it got the vpper hand, and the hereſie of the *Marcioniſtes* was quite forgotten, aboliſht and blotted out.

Thus tyme will deface the hereſies of *Iohn Caluin* and *Martin Luther*, with all the whole rabble and route of Arch-heretiques. God graunt your Graces, what heart can wiſhe heere in this worlde, and in the life to come, perpetuallie to raigne in bliſſe,

bliſſe, ioye, and quietneſſe.
Thus, I haue ended.

¶ *By me* Iohn Nichols,

ſubmitting him-ſelf vnder the Popes correction, meaning hencefoorth to be a true Catholique member of the Church of Roome. Amen *(quoth the Cardinalles) with all the company. And ſo the Oratiō ended at Roome, in the yeere of our Lord. 1578. In the moneth of Maye, the .xxv. daie, and preſented the. xxvii. daie of the ſame moneth, before the Pope, and all his Cardinalles, in his Conſiſtorie.*

¶A

A Sermon made at *Roome against the Pope*, in the yeere of *our Lord. 1578. the. xxvi. daie of May*, and presented before the Pope in his Consistorie, the. xxvii. day of that Moneth.

Any there be (well beloued) who more rashly, then wisely, confesse the Pope of Roome, to be Christe his generall Vicar here on earth, to be supreame head ouer all Churches, the world throughout, and to be the chefest Shepheard of Christe his flocke. They take the Church of Roome to be our holie Mother the Church: that her we must serue, vpon her we must waite, in her we must beleeue, in her resteth our saluation: and the flying away from her, is our condempnation. She is the Church (say they) that cannot erre, for she is the spowse of Christe.

I will proue bothe by the testimonies of the Scriptures, and by the authorites of the graue and auncient Doctours: that the Pope is not supreame

head

head, and that the Church of Christ is neyther in Roome, nor in the Capitoll of Roome: no more then it is in Egipt, or the high pinacled Churches in Egipt. But in euerie Nation, and in euerie Countrey, the men that feare God, and worke righteousnes, they are the house of God, they are the Church: Euerie chaste body is his holy Tabernacle, and spirite and trueth is his heauenly worship: They are the Church of God, if they doe holde, and shall holde, the reioysing of their hope, constantly and faithfully vnto the ende. That such are the house of God, Saint Paule sheweth in 1.Cor.3.16. *Nescitis quia templum Dei estis, et spiritus Dei habitat in vobis.* Doo you not knowe that you are the temple of God, and that the spirite of God dwelleth in you? And againe. 1.Cor.6 19. *An nescitis quoniam membra vestra templum sunt spiritus sancti qui in vobis est, quem habetis à Deo?* Doo you not knowe, that your body is the temple of the holie Ghost which is in you, and which you haue of God? And againe. 2. Cor.6.16. *Vos estis templũ Dei viui: sicut dicit Deus, Quoniam inhabitabo in illis, et inambulabo*

inter

inter eos, et ero illorum Deus: et ipsi erunt mihi populus. You are the temple of the liuing God, as God hath saide: I wyll dwell in them, and I wyll walke in them, and they shall be my people, and I wyll be their God. And againe. Ephe. 2. 19. *Iam non estis hospites, et aduenæ, sed estis Ciues sanctorum, et domestici Dei.* We be no more straungers and forreiners, but fellowe Cittizens with the Saintes, and of the famillie of God.

In these & all such places, we be taught that the house of God, is not any buylding of wood or stones, nor any Cittie, or any materiall Temple: but man is the house of God, as hereafter more manifestlie it shall appeare, when I come to intreate of the Church.

But first I will begin with the Pope, who arrogantlie nameth him selfe the vniuersall Shepheard. And his Scholers or subiectes are not afraide to say, that hee beeing Bishoppe of Roome, is the visible heade of the Churche in Christes steede: But this they cannot shewe by Scripture, neyther doth the Church require any such head, for Christe is present with it, as he hath pro-

promised. Math.28. *Sum vobiscum vsque ad consummationem mundi*. I am with you alwayes, euen vnto the ende of the world.

If the Pope be a visible head, why is he not seene of all men? why doth he not gouerne all men in the Churche, and giue nourishment vnto them, as the head ought to do? why doth he not preach vnto all people? This he doth not: wherefore he is no visible head, as he faineth to pretend. And surely, to be the generall head ouer all: is to great a matter and enterprise for any mortall man to take vpon him.

I am sure the Pope wyll graunt him selfe to be a member of this Catholique Churche: if he then be a member, howe can he also be an head? except the same thing shall be bothe an head and a member, which is verie absurde and monstrous. If he saye that he is a member: Christ is his head onely, and not any other: why shall not Christe be as well a head for all? These thinges we see are verie childishe and fonde, but yet they apply

applie and saye, that Christ sayde to *Peter*: Thou arte *Peter*, and vppon this Rocke wyll I builde my Church, and the gates of hell shall not preuayle against it.

Nowe vppon this place, our aduersaries the Papistes, grounde this proposition: the Churche is founded vppon Saint Peter, Ergo, Saint Peter was the head of the Church. If Saint Peter be the head of the Church, the Pope is his successour, Ergo, the Pope is the head of the Church. I denie that Saint Peter was head of the Church, and therefore if Saint Peter (whose successour the Pope claimeth him selfe to be) was neuer head of the Church: howe can the Bishop of Roome be head?

The confession of our aduersaries is grounded vppon these woordes. *Tu es Petrus*. That is to saye: Thou arte Peter. And ours vppon this. That it is sayde. *Super hanc Petram, et non super te Petrum*. That is: Vpon this Rocke, and not vpon thee Peter.

In

In deede our saiour Christe hath mo
manifestlie distinguished, *Petrum à Pe
tra*, That is to say, Simon Peter fro
the liuelie Rocke whereupon he hat
builded his Church, chaunging both
the name and the person. The whic
our text plainly sheweth vs, that whic
he would neuer haue done, if it ought
to haue bene vnderstode of Peter, an
not of the confession of Saint Peter.
I leaue it to the iudgement of euer
Christian: whether it be more agre
able to the faith, and more healthfull fo
the Church, eyther that the Church h
founded vpon Christe, or vppon Pet
vpon the sonne of the lyuing God, vpo
him that vanquished sathan: or vpo
him, whome Christe him selfe in the v
rie same Chapter calleth Sathan hi
selfe. Upon him who is called the chie
corner stone of the building, or vpo
him who is an offence vnto him: th
is to saye a stone of great stumbling.
None sayth Saint Paule 1. *Cor.* 3. C
laye any other foundation, but tha
which is layde, which is Christe. Als
Saint Peter sayth 2. *Pet.* 2. You are
liuing stones, built vpon the cheefe co
p

ner stone, in whome who so euer beleeueth, he shall not be confoũded: That is to say, in that cõfession of Christ, which he calleth the Rocke and foundation of the Church. It appeareth then by this place, that Christe hath builded it vpon him selfe, and not vpon Simon Peter, and vpon the confession of faith which Peter made, and not vpon the faith of Peter, which was to much wauering and vnstedfast. And in verie deede, where Saint Iohn reciteth this storie, he reciteth wholly vpon Peters confession. Iohn.6. And therefore by the Rocke, he meant him selfe. For when Peter had sayde, *Tu es Christus filius Dei*. Thou art Christe the sonne of God, Christe sayde to him: Vpon this Rocke will I builde my Church. And in that place, he giueth no more to Peter in the keies (which is the binding and losing of sinners) then he giueth them all else where. So in Iohn.20. when he sayde, Καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς, Λάβετε πνεῦμα ἅγιον, ἂν τινων ἀφῆτε τὰς ἁμαρτίας ἀφέωνται αὐτοῖς, ἂν τινων κρατῆτε κεκράτηνται. Receyue the ho-

lie Ghost: whose sinnes so euer ye remit, they are remitted, & whose sinnes so euer ye retaine, they are retained. Here all haue as much as Peter: And what hath ỹ Pope to do with these wordes, which followeth not Peter, neyther in life, nor doctrine? A strange thing it is to se, howe they builde their kingdome vpon Peter, and whatsoeuer is sayde of him, they take it to them selues: But before they can proue any thing in deede, they must proue these three points vnto vs, if they will haue the Pope to be the supream head of the whole Church: which they shall neuer be able to do by the Scriptures, as long as they liue.

First, they must proue that Peter was chefe and head of all the Apostles: Secondlie, that he was at Roome, and sate there as Bishoppe generall: Thyrdlie, that he left all the title & preheminence, of his seate to his successours, whatsoeuer. If they proue the two first poynts (as they can not) yet they make nothing against vs, although we should graunt it them: vnlesse they proue the thirde (which they shall neuer be able to do,) that Saint Peter hath left

all

all his authoritie to his successours after him for euer. The Epistles of Saint Peter are extant, but no mention there is, that eyther hee was at Roome, or was chefe of the Apostles, or supreame head of the Church, or that his successours should play Rex ouer all men, and be the rulers of all Churches in the worlde.

Saint Paule in his Epistle saluted manie that were Christians at Rome, but of S. Peter he made no mention, if S. Peter had bin at Rome he had not forgotten to haue greeated him as well as the rest.

For as much then, that neyther by the writinges of Saint Peter, nor any other Apostle of Christe: our aduersaries can prooue the Pope to be any Ecclesiasticall head to this Church, but Christe Jesus alone, who is alwayes present with it, and euer walketh in the middest of the seuen golden Candelsticke, so that hee needeth no Vicar generall, or vniuersall Bishoppe:

Let vs deerely beloued, as we loue the Lord Jesus our head, and tender the saluation of our owne soules, flie farre from the Pope, and all his adherentes, Traditions, Decrees, and Pardons, least hee make marchandize also of our soules, as hee doth of a great many, both in Roome, Italie, Fraunce, Spaine, and else where.

O my dearelie beloued, be not deceyued in your owne conceptes, and fonde imaginations: what moueth you to take the Pope to be such a fellowe, that he is able to gouerne vniuersallie all Churches? Doth his singular vertue (and not Scriptures) persuade you that the Pope is the vniuersall head of the Church? If it be so: where appeareth the excellencie of his vertue? Is he humble as Christe was? nay, the Pope is prowde. Is he poore as Christe was? naie, the Pope is ritch. Is he patient as Christe was? naie, the Pope is impatient. Is he mercifull as Christe was? naie, the Pope is vnmercifull. Doth he vse admonition as Christe vsed? not so, the Pope vseth imprisonment. Doth he vse communication as Christe vsed? naie, the Pope vseth extirpation. Doth the Pope vse clemencie as Christe vsed? naie, the Pope vseth all manner of tyrannie. Doth the Pope praye for his aduersaries, as Christe dyd? I tell you no, the Pope curseth them apace, and with his thunderbolles of curssing and banning, he maketh affraide: yea, and doth terrifie the

the heartes of many that offend him. I tell you plainely, and that without flatterie: you shall finde the Pope in all vertue, seuered from Christe: you shall finde him to Christe, Beliall: to lyght, darknesse: to trueth, falsehood. Are not these and such like, the verie fruites of Antichriste? the Tree is knowen by his fruite. O deare countreymen, forsake not Christe, to followe Antichrist: embrace not fables, in steede of veritie: loue not him, which aduanceth him selfe aboue all thinges, that is called God. Ireneus. Lib 5. Cap. *Penultimo*, a most auncient Doctour of the Church, who liued almost fiftene hundred yeres since, disputing of Antichrist, sayth thus: *Antichristus cùm sit seruus, tamen adorari vult vt Deus*: Antichrist, notwithstanding, he be but a slaue, yet he will be worshipped, as if he were God. Ioachimus Abbas, sayth, *Antichristus iampridem natus est Romæ, et altius extolletur in sede Apostolica*. Antichrist is long since borne in Roome, yet shall he be higher aduanced in the Apostolique sea. Antichriste is hee (sayth Gregorie. *Lib, 4. Epist 38.*) that shall

 claime

clayme to him selfe to be vniuersall Bis-
shoppe, and shall haue a garde of Preests
to attende vppon him. This Gregorie
was Bishop of Roome, and if this pre-
rogatiue and preheminence of the name
of Christe his generall Vicar heere on
earth, had beene due vnto him: he had
neuer (beeing a wise man) reiected the
same, neither had he at any tyme beene
so bolde as to call him Antichriste, that
should clayme to him selfe supremacie.
If he being Bishoppe of Roome, a godlie
and a learned man, would in no wise
be counted cheefe Pastour ouer all Na-
tions and Kingdomes: surelie, his suc-
cessors that came after him, were much
to blame, to vsurpe that swelling and
statelie title of supremacie. Saint Gre-
gorie, calleth the name: Of a supreame
head, Of a generallitie, of an vniuersall
Patriarche, of a supreame Bishop, (for all
is one:) the name of pride, of rashnesse,
of blasphemie, an vngodlie, a wicked,
and a prophane name. And that he fur-
ther sayth, *Eulogio et Anastasio*: None of
my predecessours, no Bishop of Roome,
hath at any time agreede to vse so vn-
godlie a tytle. Let not such also for-
get

getts, who take vpon them so rashlie, and so vnlearnedlie to maintayne the Bishoppe of Roome: What Gregorie heerein further sayth, his wordes be these, for that they are manifest, I may not omit them. *Gregorius Ioanni Episcopo Constantinopolitano*: Who is therefore (sayth he) in so corrupt, and naughtie a name, set before vs to be followed, which despising the Legions of Angels, appointed with him in equall fellowshippe, hath lept out into the highest point of singularitie, to the intent hee might obey none, but rule all. Who also sayde: I will clime vp into heauen, and make my seate aboue the Starres of the skie, I will sit vppon the glorious mount towardes the North, I will clime vp aboue the clowdes, and will be lykest the most highest. *Esai. 21.* Let those which are in blindnesse, if they haue eyes, see, if they haue eares, let them heare: if they haue reason, let them iudge: if they haue learning, let them discusse, whether these wordes be so plaine, as the Pope in no wise (except hee renounce his Pardons and pride) can auoide them.

Chrisost. Opere imperfect. Hom. 25. *Quicunque in terra primatum desiderauerit, confusionem in cœlo inueniet:* Whosoeuer ambitiouslie desireth supremacie in earth, he shall finde confusion in heauen. The Pope ambitiouslie desireth supremacie on earth: therefore he shall finde confusion in heauen.

Saint *Augustine. Tom. 5. De Ciuitate Dei. Lib. 18. Cap. 2. Et Lib. 20. Cap. 19.* (He sayth,) *Babylon* is the first *Roome*, and *Roome* the second *Babylon*. And to come nearer to the matter, Saint Iohn sayth: Antichrist shall sit in the Cittie, that is built vpon seuen hilles, And so is the Cittie of Roome. *Apoca.* 17. And moreouer (*Sibilla* sayth:) That the greatest terrour, and furie of his Empire, and the greatest woe that he shall worke, shall be by the bancks of Tyber: and there is Roome. He that hath eyes to see, let him see, and he that hath eares to heare let him heare. *Phocas* (as you may reade in Platina, *In vita Bonifacij. 3.*) That execrable murtherer was he, that proclaymed the Bishoppe of Roome to be head of the vniuersall Church. About six hundred & thirteene yeres after Christe was

was borne, this Phocas being but a common Souldiour: by treason and conspiracie, laide handes vpon his liege, Lord, and maister, the Emperour Mauricius, and in villainous sort put him to death: and so by trayterous villanie he aspyred to the Empyre.

The monstrous crueltie of Phocas, vpon the Emperour Mauricius.

The manner of his crueltie was this, first he commaunded forth the Emperours youngest Sonne, and caused him to be slaine, euen in the sight of his Father, and so the second, and then the thirde, and afterwarde the Empresse. Mauricius, beanilie loking on, lamented and cryed vnto God, saying: Righteous arte thou, O Lord, and rightfull is thy iudgement. Last of all, he vsed the like tyrannie also vpon the Emperour, and layde him, his wife, and his three children on a heape, together. After that he had thus lyued, and committed sundrie murthers, and other great mischeefes: the people toke him, slewe him, and threwe him into the fire. Here you may see the first promotour, a holie promotour of the Popes holines: a murtherer, the finder out of supremacie: and supremacie founded, and builded

builded vppon murder. Thus you haue heard, howe firſt the Biſhop of Roome, was claymed in ſtæde of preſident of the vniuerſall Church: Not according to Chriſte his inſtitution, but according to the commaundement of the murderer Phocas: the Popes vſurpe the name of ſupremacie.

Well, ſhall we haue a view of the Scriptures? ſhall we ſée what in them that Biſhoppe of Roome hath, to maintaine his Papacie? one thing (dærely beloued) before I beginne, I dare faithfullie promiſe you, that you ſhall finde throughout the whole Teſtament, neyther *Papa*, *Papatus*, *Primas*, nor *Primatus*: Neyther Pope, Papacie, Primate, nor Primacie, to be graunted vnto any of the Apoſtles of Chriſte, then much leſſe vnto the Biſhop of Roome. Howe ſhamefully they wreſt thoſe places of binding and loſing: No learned man there is, but vnderſtandeth and perceyueth the ſame. I aunſwere with Cyprian and Auguſtine: *De. ſin. Cleri.* That God in the perſon of Simon Peter, gaue the keies to all, to ſignifie the vnitie of all, for Chriſte did it not for this

purpoſe

purpose, to preferre one man before another, but to set out the vnitie of the Church: for the rest of the Apostles were the same thing that Peter was, endued with like partaking, bothe of honour and power.

Augustine sayth. Homil. in Iohn. 1. Homil. 11. *Si in Petro Ecclesiæ mysterium non esset, Dominus ei non diceret, Dabo tibi claues*: If there were not in *Peter* a mysterie of the Church, the Lord would not say to him: I will giue thee the Keies. For if this was said to Peter, the Church hath them not: but if the Church haue them, then Peter when he receyued the Keies, betokened the whole Church. And in an other place, when they were all asked, onelie Peter aunswered, Thou arte Christe: And it is sayde to him, I will giue thee the Keies. As though he alone, had receiued the power of binding and losing: whereas bothe he beeing one sayd then, one for all, and he receyued the other with all, as bearing the person of vnitie: therefore one for all, because there is vnitie in all.

Let

Let Peter truelie haue the first place: yet there is great difference betweene the honour of degree, and power. We see that the Apostles commonly granted this to Peter, that he should speake in assemblies, and after a certaine manner goe before them, with propounding, exhorting, and admonishing: but of his power we reade nothing at all.

Reade the Scriptures, and there ye shall finde, what office and power, Peter had among the Apostles, howe he behaued him selfe, and howe he was accepted of them. Runne ouer all that remayneth written, you shall finde nothing else, but that he was one of the twelue, equall with the rest, and their fellowe, but not their Lord. But to graunt them that which they require, concerning Peter, that is, that he was the Prince of the Apostles, and excelled the rest in dignitie: Yet there is no cause, why they should of a singular example, make an vniuersall rule, and drawe to perpetuitie, that which was once doone, vnlesse there is a farre differing reason. One was there among the Apostles, forsothe, because they were fewe

fewe in number. If one were the chefe of twelue men, shall it therefore followe, that one ought to be made ruler of a hundred thousand millions of men? It is no meruaile, that twelue had one among them, that should rule them all, for nature beareth this, and the witte of men requireth this, that in euerie assemblie (although they be all equall in power) yet there is one as a gouernour, whome the rest may haue regard vnto. There is no Court without a Consull: no Session of Iudges without a Pretor, or Propounder: no Company without a Ruler: no fellowshippe without a Maister. So should it be no absurditie, if we confessed, that the Apostles gaue to Peter such a supremacie: but that which is of force among fewe, is by and by to be drawne to the whole worlde, to the ruling whereof, no one man is sufficient. But (say they) this hath place no lesse in the whole vniuersalitie of nature, then in all the parts, that there be one soueraigne head of all. And hereof (very wisely, as they thinke) they fetch a proofe from Cranes and Bees, which alwayes chuse to them

selues

selues one guide and not many . I allowe in deede, the examples which they bring forth: but do they resort together out of all the world, to chuse them one King? euery seuerall King is contented with his owne Hiue. So among Cranes, euery hierde hath their owne King . What else shall they preuent hereby? but that euerie Church ought to haue her owne seuerall Bishoppe appointed her . But whereas I sayde, let it be graunted, that Peter was Prince of the Apostles: He was no otherwise called Prince of the Apostles, then Cicero was called Prince of Eloquence, in respect of excellencie, not of superioritie: and so was Homer called, the captaine of Poeticall fineneſſe. If a question should be moued, who were the chefe, and captaine of the schoole? Some one or other should be noted foorthwith: yet is he not therefore a Prince ouer his fellowes, nor his fellowes subiect vnto him . So I say, though Peter had beene called the Prince of the Apostles: yet was he not their soueraigne and Lord, but fellowe labourer in the Lord his

his Vineyarde. And thus much brefflie touching the Pope and his false supremacie.

Of the erronious, hippocriticall, and false Church of Roome.

HEther vnto, I haue intreated of the Popes vsurped supremacie: nowe I meane to speak a worde or two of the Churche. I wyll first beginne with the definition of this worde, Church. and then I wyll proceade farther, to intreate thereof, ἐκκλησια, signifieth a Congregation, or company of faithfull men, assembled together. This Church is two manner of wayes construed, that is, the Church or company, onely of those, whome God hath chosen to euerlasting lyfe, in all tymes and places. Which is to man inuisible, who can not enter so farre, as to knowe GOD his wyll, neyther the heart of man him selfe, but is onelye visyble to GOD, who

who knoweth those that are his (as the Apostle sayth) and hath sealed them with his owne seale. And there is a Church of wicked and reprobate, of Papistes and Turkes: yea, the wicked to the ende of the worlde, are mingled with the good. Papists, contrarie to their owne lawes, frequent the Churches or assemblies of Christians: the Goates kepe company with the Sheepe, the chaffe with the graine, and the Tares are found among the good Corne. Into the bosom of the true Church, God will haue his children to be gathered together, not onely that they should by her helpe and Ministery be nourished, while they are Infantes and young children: but also be ruled by her mother like care, tyll they growe to ryper age, and at length come to the marke of faith: for it is not lawfull that those thinges be seuered, which God hath coniopned. That to whome he is a Father, the Church be also theyr Mother: and that not only vnder the Lawe, but also since the comming of Christe. As Paule. *Galat.3.26.* witnesseth, which teacheth, That we are the children, of the newe

and

and heauenlie Ieruſalem. In the Crede where we profeſſe that we beleeue, In the holie Catholique Church: We meane not Roome to be that holie Catholique Church, for if no Church ought to be reputed for Chriſtian or Catholique, but that which is of Roome: Then were the auncient Fathers much to blame, who in ſetting downe the Articles of our Crede: dyd neglect and lightly paſſe ouer this vpſtart Article of the Romiſh ſea: that where we be commaunded to beleeue one Catholique and Apoſtolique Church, they dyd not in manner commaund vs to beleeue the Romaine Church withall. Whereby you perceyue well enough (my frendes) into what combersome ſtraights, and abſurdities, the Papiſtes haue hurled them ſelues, by their blinde and vnadviſed raſhneſſe. For firſt, if no certaintie of ſaluation be to be hoped for out of the Church, which Church muſt be without all queſtion, that ſame verie Church of Roome, as they frame they⁹ argumentes, and that the Church of Roome be none other, but the ſame which is ſtrained and ſtraighted to the

vniuersall commaundementes, and decrées of the Bishoppe of Roome. Nowe then they doo exempt out of the priuiledge of the Church, not onely this our English nation: but together with them also, they doo exclude out of the number of the Catholique Church, infinite other famous learned Clarks, of the auncient and pure age of the Church, as Doctors, Patriarches, and Bishoppes, yea, amongst these also, all the Bishoppes of Roome, as many as were Gregorie predecessors. But what nede many proofes in a matter of it selfe so manifest and well knowne? Undoubtedlie, sithens Christe would vouchsafe to lay the first foundation, yea, and to build vp that beautifull and euerlasting building of his owne house, vpon none other ground worke, then vpon that corner stone of Christian faith, and Christian confession. And if Paule doubted nothing to recoumpt the same faith to be the only and infallible shoote-Ancker of saluation: By what Lawe then will the Pope adiudge them as out-castes, worthy to be banished from the Catholique and Apostolique Church, which professe

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the selfe same faith of Christe, that the Apostles and other Catholique Churches dyd professe? Why should the Papistes thus cruelly deale with the Christians, for following Christe and his Apostles? Why should they thus furiously persecute the godlie, burne them, or consume them in prison, for denying the Romaine Church, to be the holie Catholique Church? Seing that no mention thereof is made to be such a Church (as the Papistes would haue it to be) throughout all the Scriptures. But we gather by the Scriptures, that the Church of Roome is the Church of the deuill: for if the Church of Roome were the true Church of Christe, Christes sheepe heare his voice. But the Church of Roome heareth not his voyce, but heareth rather the voyce of Courtezanes: therefore it is not the true Church, but the Sinagogue of Sathan.

She wryteth in her coyne, That kingdome and people, that doo not obey mee, shall be rooted out, contrarie to that: the Kinges of Nations beare rule ouer them, but ye shall not

so dw : therefore ſhē is not the true Church. Ambroſe ſayth, That the true Church, is the Mother of the liuing: But thoſe that be in this Church are dead, for they haue no faith, becauſe they haue no knowledge, therfore this Church is not the true Church. She committeth idolatrie, and ſpirituall aduulterie many wayes: therefore ſhē is not the holie Catholique Church. The Church of Roome numbers her multitudes, as Dauid nūbred his Souldiors: and therfore ſhē is not the holie Catholique Church. Theſe Papiſtes are like Cockles, they carry they? houſe about with them, & ſo dw they they? Church. Aſpalathus will not growe but in Boetia, ye kill theſe men, if ye take away the couerture of ỹ Church of Roome: This Church is the ritch Arras, that couereth all her faultes & follies. But admit (good people) that we were wunderfull hūble & obediēt to this Church, and moſt willing to come againe, as ſoliſhe Wēdles to the ſkirt of this Church, and to aſke of her queſtions and demaundes: I pro-teſt before heauen and earth, and the founder of them bothe, that I thinke it

not

not good, we should be bolde in asking, for the great & imminent daunger in her aunswering. For if we aske, Whether Iesus be Christe, or no, This Romishe Church giueth out her aunswere: That the Bishop of Roome is the high Preest, and that the sayde Bishoppe hath the strength of the kingdome of Christe, and the infallible veritie of a Prophete: And therefore, they allowe to ouer rule Christe, by adding and taking to and fro his worde. If we aske, If Christe were the onely oblation offered once vp for all, for the sinnes of the world: Her aunswere is verie daungerous, That the Masse is a sacrifice for the quicke and the dead. And that falleth into commendation of her wheaten God, and doth attribute the health of the world, to that abhominable bread and Idoll. If we aske her, If Christe be her intercessour to God: She aunswereth vs most wickedlie, *Iure Matris impera*: That Christe forsoothe, shall commaund his Father, by the right of his Mother. If we aske her, Of the state and condition of man, since the fall of Adam: She aunswereth, That hee may ouertake

heauen of him selfe, and well enough by him selfe, worke out his owne saluation. Aske her, What faith is: And she will tell of an implicite thing, and of a generall faith, and to be holden fast by that hand: there she keepeth silence, and is as speechlesse as a Fishe. If we aske her, What the Lawe is: She layeth our shoulders with the heauy Ceremonies of Iudaisme, and Paganisme. If we aske her, What the Gospell is: She maketh voide Gods promise, with her owne Iustice. If we aske her, Of good workes: She answereth iust, lyke Saint Lukes Pharisie. Then againe, she deuiseth good workes to be thus: to hyre certayne men for money, to pray, and to mumble vp much quantitie of Psalmes in a couert tongue, to keepe huge troughes of Ling and Saltfishe, many yeeres, to ware speechlesse with seldome speaking, to ware lame with much sitting, to bind many knottes in theyr gyrdles, and many windowes in theyr showes, to be buried in Monkishe weedes, and Nunnishe Cowles, &c.

If

If we aſke her, Of the number of Chriſtes Sacramentes: She aunſwereth, That there be ſeuen: Without ſcripture, ſhe hath added fiue to Gods two, as though God hath let her his two Sacramentes to vſurie. If we aſke her, Whether we goe after this life: ſhe telleth vs of Virgils, Platoes, and Mahomets Purgatorie. If we ſhould ſay vnto her, Fayre Church of Roome, whether is thy beloued gone: She would ſay, He went in his body to harrowe hell. And then I will aſke her, Howe ſhe can aunſwere to *Signum Iona, et ſignum Lazari*: The ſigne of *Ionas*, and the ſigne of *Lazarus*, that Chriſte ſhould be three dayes in his graue. If we would ſay, Fayre Church of Roome, whether is thy beloued gone: She will ſay, To heauen.

But then ſhe dreameth groſely of heauen, as Mahomet, and beſides that in euerie hyll Alter, and groue Alter: ſhe will ſaye, Heere is Chriſte, and there is Chriſte. The more ſhe aunſwereth, the more ſhe aunſwereth of leſinges.

Aneath hath shée nowe, these many long yeres aunswered any thing truelie, of the goinges of the beloued, or of the doinges of the beloued.

Beléeue me truely (O world) it is daunger to aske her: it is nert to deaths doore, to heare her: it is dampnable death and hell, to beléeue her. Better it is to dye in body (for him that may) then to beléeue her to be the holy Catholique Church, and therefore, to perish in body and soule. Happy were they, and are, and shall be, who patiently suffered, do suffer, and shall suffer, the tyranny and persecution of Antichriste, Pope of Roome, for the denialt of his whoredome, and Babilonicall Church. By their patience it appeared, that they had the cognisance, or badge of the true Church. *Augustin.* De tempore Serm. 30. *Crux regni insigne est*; The Crosse (sayth Saint *Augustine*) is the cognisance, or badge of the Church. *Athanasius*, Ad solitam vitam agentes, sayth: *Cadi Christianorum proprium est: Cadere autem Christianos Pilati, et Caipha officia sunt*. To be persecuted, belongeth to Christians: but to persecute the Christi-

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ans, belongeth to the office of Pilate and Caiphas. But the Papistes say, that they punishe the Protestants, onely for a desire to haue them reconciled to their Synagogue, and for entyre loue: A gentle kinde of loue, lyke the loue of one Philippides (of whome Aristophanes in Vespis writeth) who toke a cudgell, and dyd beate his Father, and all for loue. But we may say with Tertullian, *Crudelitas vestra nostra gloria est*: Your cruelties is our glorie. For Gods Religion, the more it is pressed, the more it encreaseth.

A prettie example alluded to the Papists.

This persecution of the Papistes against the Christians, is an euident token, that the Church of Roome is the Synagogue of Sathan. Caine, persecuted Abell: the Giants, Noah: the Sodomites, Loth: Ismaell, Isaack: Esaù, Iacob: the Egiptians, the Israelites: Pharaoh, Moses: Saule, Dauid: and yet Dauid would not hurt againe, of whome we learned, that Gods Church doth suffer rather then hurt: & pardon, rather then persecute. The false Church of the Prophetes, persecuted the true prophetes: all Church: the Synagogue of the Iewes, perse-

persecuted Christe and his Apostles. The Churche of Roome persecuteth Christes lyttle flocke, and congregation: so Hillarius, and Nicephorus, in many places discourse. Lactantius sayth excellently to this matter: Divin. Institut. Lib. 5. Cap. 19. *Defendenda religio est, non occidendo, sed monendo: non sæuitia, sed patientia: non scelere sed fide. Nam si sanguine et tormentis, si malo religionem defendere velis, iam non defendetur illa, sed polluetur atque violabitur.* Religion is to be defended, not with murthering, but with nouriſhing: not with crueltie, but with patience: not with furie, but with faithfulneſſe. For if ye defend Religion with bloodſhedde, and tormenting, or with working of miſcheefe: it is not defended, but defiled and deceyued.

The Ornamentes and deckings of the Anti-christian Church of Roome.

The Church of Roome perſecuteth all Chriſtians, her ſentence is, burne, burne, burne: her badge, let vs lape wayte for blood: her head, blaſphemie: her ſhelde, tyrannie: her breaſt, iniurie: her eyes, fyre: her gyrdle, fornication: her breath, poyſon: her tongue, the ſtinge of death: her feete, ready to

ta ſhedde innocent blood: her ſwo2de, violence: her Croſſe, perſecution: her pardons, iniquitie: her tryple crowne, p2eſumption: her Reies, ambition, and all her dwinges abhomination. Hære dw follow, great ſwarmes of Cainites, Giantes, Sodomites, Egiptians, Scribes, Pharaſies, Herodians, Monks, Friers, Cardinalles, Adulterers, Idolaters, Paraſites, Poyſoners, Pardoners, Bawdes, Flatterers, Traytours, Rebels, Murderers, Theeues: with all the Romiſhe rabble. Theſe are the right Canniballes, lyke to the barbarous people of Armenica, that eate one an other.

The Champions and vpholders of this Babilonicall Sea.

My countrey men, wyll you builde your faith vppon this Church, which receyueth ſuch Harlettes, which hath ſuch graceleſſe perſonnes, ſuch perſecutours, and ſuch blodie butchers? The Church of Chriſte hath none ſuch, there were neuer in the Church of Chriſte, no2 are not, no2 neuer ſhall be, perſecutors. The Church of Chriſte is ſtyll perſecuted, and neuer perſecuteth. Did the Patriarches perſecute? did Chriſte perſecute? did ỳ Apoſtles perſecute? When the

the Samaritanes would not receyue Chriſte. Iames and Iohn being as yet Nouices in Chriſtes ſchoole, called for fyre from heauen, and would haue burned and conſumed the Samaritanes: but Chriſte rebuked them, ſaying: You wot not of what manner of ſpirite you are, for the ſonne of man is not come to deſtroye mens liues, but to ſaue them.

If the Church of Roome were the holie Catholique Church: it would then feede the ſoule of man (being a ſpirite) with ſpirituall foode, moue her by ſpirituall inſtrumentes, drawe her by the worde, leade her by the ſpirite, and perſuade her by the Scriptures, which are the onely meanes which God appoynteth. If an Heretique holde an opinion, he holdeth it eyther of ignoraunce, or of wylfulneſſe: If of ignoraunce, he is to be conuerted by doctrine, to be conuinced by Scripture, reformed by exhortation, reduced by reaſon, perſuaded by the trueth: If of wylfulneſſe, he is to be menaced by the Lawe, and corrected by excommunication. The Church of Rome vſeth no ſuch meanes: wherefore the Church of Roome is of

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the deuill, and not of Christe. And as the Lord hath done to Ierusalem, in Titus Vespasianus tyme, (as Iosephus in his hystorie of the Iewes maketh mention:) and to the ruines thereof, that the place should not boast of the Oracles of God: So God hath done to Roome, to the Idolles thereof, that they? boasting should be in vaine of the Church of God. For what was Roome euen from her byrth, but a Cittie built in Parracide: then strengthened with robberies, and made a Sanctuarie for murderers of all Nations, as you may read in they? owne Romaine Hystories. And what was it afterwardes (in the time of the Emperour Iulianus Apostata, Diocleſian, Nero, and diuers others) but a slaughter house of the Martyrs of God? and what is it in ours, and our fathers dayes, but the Quæne of pride, the nurse of Idolatries, the mother of whordomes, the sincke of iniquities? out of which, sorceries, witchcrafts, poisoninges, adulteries, rebellions, and bloodie warres, haue ouerflowed the whole earth. Who will beléeue in this Church? are we commaunded to be-

A notable forewarning to the Church of Roome.

The pedigree of Roome.

léeue

læue in this Church, when as it is sayd in our Créde, *Credo sanctam, Catholicam, Ecclesiam* : I beleeue (that there hath bæne, is, and shall be) a holie Catholique Church? My sence can not shew it, and therefore I beléeue it: for if I sée it, beléefe is in vaine, for where sence faileth, and can goe no farther: there beléefe beginneth. Nor is it necessarie that we should frō time to time beléeue, that Roome is the holie Catholique Church: but we should from tyme to tyme beléeue, there is a holy Catholique church. But in déede, the Papists and such like open persecutours, haue of so long tyme kept vnder the Church, that we are driuen to beléefe, for they haue left scarse any sence, or memorie of the true members of Christes Church. If we beléeue the Romaine Church to be, The holie Catholique Church: The Scriptures are against vs, they owne Doctours are against vs: and the definition of the word, Church, is against vs. Shall we beléeue the building of Saint Peters Church, to be our holie Mother the Church? Beléeue it who that will, and I assure him that he hath not the

true

true Church on his syde: nor the Gospell to excuse him.

Seeke for this Church, whereof Christe is head, and not the Pope: in this Church haue we lybertie, not to do euyll, but to do good. The Church of Roome bringeth to our lyfe, myserable bondage. Whyles we are in the Church of Christe, we hope for the promises of lyfe euerlasting: but whyles we stande in the Churche of Roome, we stande in feare and terrour of eternall condempnation, to come vppon vs for our sinnes, in the day of death. Through Christe (who is the head of this true Churche) we se our sinnes purged, the Deuill vanquished, death and condempnation abolished, and our selues in the lybertie of the chyldren of God, to crie Abba Father. Thus much touching the Church.

¶ Of

¶ Of the infallible, perfect ground, and sufficiencie of the Scriptures, to the eternall comfort and consolation of all true Christians, and vtter confusion of the Pope, and all his adherentes.

BEcause the Papistes affirme and boldly say, that the Scriptures are not sufficient, for a man thereby to knowe the trueth, by the which he may be saued: it is expedient and needefull at this present tyme, to heare what the Scriptures and Doctors doo say therevnto. First I will beginne with the Scriptures, as with the veritie it selfe: and then with the Doctors, who ground theyr argumentes and reasons vpon the worde of God, which is the holy Scripture. Although it behoueth man, earnestly to bende his eyes to consider, the workes of God. For as much as he is set (as it were) in this gorgeous stage, to be a beholder of them: yet principallie ought he to bend his eares to the Scriptures, that

that he may better profite thereby, and soner learne the trueth, by the which he may be saued. And therefore it is no meruayle, that they which are borne in darknesse: do more and more ware harde in theyr amazed dulnesse, because verie fewe of them do giue them selues pliable to learne of the worde of God, whereby to kepe them within the boundes: but they rather reioyce in theyr owne vanitie. Thus then ought we to holde, that to the ende true Religion may shine amongst vs, we must take our begynning at the heauenlie doctrine, and that no man can haue any taste, be it neuer so little, of true and sounde doctrine: vnlesse he haue borne scholler to the Scriptures. And from hence groweth the originall of true vnderstanding, that we reuerentlie embrace, whatsoeuer it pleaseth GOD, therein to testifie of him selfe: for not onely the perfect and (in all poynts) absolute faith: but also all right knowledge of God, springeth from obedience, and truely in this behalfe, God of his singuler prouidence, hath prouided for men, in all ages.

For if we consider, howe slippery an inclination mans minde hath to slide into, by forgetfulnes of God, how great a readinesse to fall into all kinde of errours, howe great a lust to forge oftentimes new and counterfeyt Religions: We may therby perceyue, how necessarie it was to haue the heauenly doctrine, to put in writing, that it should not eyther perishe by forgetfulnesse, or growe vaine by errour, or be corrupted by boldnesse of men. Sith therfore it is manifest that God hath alway vsed the helpe of his worde, towardes all those whome it pleased him at any tyme fruitfully to instruct, because he foresawe, that his Image imprinted in that most beautifull forme of the world, was not sufficiently effectuall: therfore it behoueth vs to trauaile this straight waye, if we earnestlie couette to attayne to the true beholding of God, we must saye, come to his worde, wherin God is well and liuelie set out by his workes, when his workes be weyed, not after the peruersenesse of our owne iudgement, but according to the rule of the eternall trueth. If we swerue from

The onely fall of man into so many and sundrie euyls, is the forgetfulnesse of God.

from that worde (as I sayd euen nowe) although we runne neuer so faste: yet we shall neuer attayne to the marke, because the course of our running is out of the way. For thus we must thinke, that the brightnesse of the face of God, which the Apostle calleth (Rom. 16.) such, as can not be attained vnto, is vnto vs lyke a Waye, out of which we can not vnwrappe our selues, vnlesse we be by the line of the worde, guided into it. And therfore) Dauid. Psalm. 9. 8. 96. 97. 99. &c.) oftentimes when he teacheth that superstitions are to be taken away out of the world, that pure Religion may florishe: bringeth in God reigning, meaning by this worde, reigning, not the power that he hath: but the doctrine, wherby he challengeth to him selfe, a lawfull gouernment: because errors can neuer be rooted out of the hearts of men, tyll the true knowledge of God be planted.

Therefore the same Prophete, after that he hath recited. Psalm. 19. 21. That the heauens declare the glorie of God, that the fyrmament sheweth foorth the workes of his handes:

That the orderlie succéeding course of dayes and nightes, preacheth his Maiestie: then he descendeth to make mention of his worde: ὁ νόμος κυρίου ἄμωμος, ἀποστρέφων ψυχάς. (sayth he,) ἡ μαρτυρία κυρίου πιστὴ, σοφίζουσα, νήπια. τὰ δικαιώματα κυρίου εὐθεῖα, εὐφραίνοντα καρδίαν· ἡ ἐντολὴ κυρίου λαμπρὰ, φωτίζουσα ὀφθαλμούς. The lawe of the Lorde is vndefiled, conuerting soules, (sayth *Dauid*) the witnesse of the Lorde is faithfull, giuing wisdome to lyttle ones: The rightfulnesse of the Lord is vpright, making hearts cheerfull: the commaundement of the Lord is bright, giuing light to the eyes. For although he comprehendeth the other vses of the Lawe, yet in generalitie he meaneth: that for as much as God doth in vaine, call vnto him all Nations, by the beholding of the heauen and earth: therefore this is the peculiar schoole of the children of God. The same meaning hath the. xix. Psalme, where the Prophet hauing preached, Of the voice of God, which in thunder, winds, showers, whirle-winds and stormes, shaketh

keth the earth, maketh the mountaines to tremble, and breaketh the Ceder trees: In the ende, at last he goeth farther, and saith. That his prayses are sung in the Sanctuarie, because the vnbeleeuers are deafe, and heare not all the voices of God that resound in the ayre. And in like manner, in an other Psalme. 93.5. after that he had described, the terrible waues of the sea: He thus concludeth, Thy testimonies are verified, the beautie of thy Temple is holinesse for euer. And out of this meaning also proceaded, that which Christe sayde to the woman of Samaria. *Iohn.4.22.* That her Nation and the rest, did honour that which they knewe not, and that onely the Iewes did worshippe the true God. For whereas the witte of man (by reason of the feeblenesse thereof) can by no meanes attaine into God, but being holpen and lyfted vp by his holie worde: It followed of necessitie that all men, except the Iewes, did wander in vanitie & errour, because they sought God without his worde. Should the Papistes committe such absurdities, in their writinges of matters of Religion, if they reiected not the

scriptures? Should they holde such erronious opinions (as they do) if they would content them-selues, with the sufficiencie of the Scriptures? no truelie, if they followed the doctrine, preceptes, and councell of the Scriptures, and not Traditions, the inuentions of ambitious and worldly minded men.

S. John teacheth in the. 20. Chap. That all things needfull to saluation, are onely contained in the word of God. These are his wordes. *Multa quidem et alia signa fecit Iesus in conspectu discipulorum suorū, quæ non sunt scripta in libro hoc: hæc autem scripta sunt, vt credatis quod Iesus est Christus ille filius Dei, et vt credentes vitam habeatis per nomen eius.* And many other signes dyd Iesus in the presence of his Disciples, which are not written in this booke: but these thinges are written that ye might beleeue, that Iesus is Christ the sonne of God, and that in beleeuing, ye might haue life through his name. The which wordes Cyrill expounded thus. *Non omnia quæ Dominus fecit, eorum scripta sunt, sed quæ scribentes putarunt sufficere tam ad mores quam ad dogmata.*

All

All is not written that Christe dyd, but so much as the writers thought sufficient, as well to manners as to doctrine. Saint Augustine, *De doctrina Christiana.* Lib. 2. Cap. 9. Sayth: *In his quæ aperte in Scripturis posita sunt, inueniuntur omnia quæ continent fidem moresque viuendi.* All thinges conteyning faith and manners, are manifestly set downe in the Scriptures.

Basilius, *De fidei Confessione.* Sayth, *Manifesta est elapsio à fide et superbiæ crimen, aut reprobare quid ex ijs quæ scripta sunt, aut superinducere quid ex non scripto.* It is a manifest slyding from the faith, and a great pride: eyther to reiect any thing that is written in the worde of GOD, or to bring in any thing vnwritten. For, Christes sheepe (sayth Saint *John. Chap. 10.*) heare his voice, and will not heare the voyce of an other. And in his Moralles he sayth: That whatsoeuer is not of faith, is sinne. If faith come by hearing, hearing by the worde of God: whatsoeuer is brought in beside the worde of God, is not of faith, and therefore sinne.

What haue we to doo good Christian people, with Romish Traditions, with Decrées, Canons, Constitutions, Coūcels, and Papisticall writings: are their inuentions comparable with the scriptures? or haue the Papists the lyke vtterannce, the lyke gifte of speeche, as Christe had? Saint Iohn speaking of Christe. Chap. 7. 46. sayth, *Nunquam sic loquutus est homo*: Neuer man spake as this man dooth. Not Cicero, the father of eloquence: not Demosthenes, out of whose mouth, flowed floodes of eloquence: not eloquent Pericles, of whome it is written, that he dyd thunder out his woordes: not the golden tongued Chrisostome. But Christes argumentes were so mightie, and his woordes so sweete: that a certaine woman, hauing great admonition thereof: lyfted vp her voice, and sayde vnto him. Happie is the wombe that bare thee, and the pappes which thou hast sucked. This woorde differeth in perfection: in his woordes all thinges endure, take away this woorde: what is man? a brute beast: Take away the sonne out of the woorld, what remaineth? horrible darkenesse.

Not all the hypocritical illusions of the Papists, can once preuayle against Christes Church.

nesse . Lactantius. *De ira Dei.* Cap. 1. Sayth, *Lumen mentis humanæ Deus est: remoto Deo cœlestique doctrina omnia erroribus plena sunt* : God is the light of mans soule, if you set a side, or put away from you God his heauenlie worde : all thinges are full of errours. **Take away this worde, what is man? a captius of Sathan, a praye of death, a slaue of sinne, a fire-brande of hell.** *Ignorantia Scripturarū Christi ignorantia est.* Sayth Hierome, in *Prologo Esaiæ.* Ignorance of the scriptures, is ignorance of Christ. **As farre as heauen is distaunt from earth, so farre ought heauenlie thinges, alwayes be preferred before humaine thinges, yea, incomparably ought they alwayes to be preferred.**

Hierome in Epistola, Ad *Demetriadem Virginem, vtere Lectiona diuina*: Sayth he: *Vtere speculo, vide speculum, fœda corrigenda: pulchra conseruanda, et pulchra facienda. Scriptura enim speculum est, fœda ostendens, et corrige dicens.* Vse to reade the holie Scripture, vse the glasse, see the glasse: that deformitie may be amended, fayrenesse preserued, and fayre thinges performed: For the scripture

ture is a glasse, shewing deformitie, and saying amend. *Gregorie*, in Moral, sayth: *Sacra scripturam tanquam speculum quoddam mentis.* The holy Scriptures is as a certaine glasse of the minde. *S. Augustinus*, in Psalm. 43. *Scriptura sancta sit tibi tanquam speculum, speculum hoc habet splendorem non mendacem, non adulantem, nullius personam amantem: formosus es? formosum te ibi vides. Sed cum foedus accesseris, et foedum te ibi videris, noli accusare speculum, ad te redi nec te fallit speculum, tu te noli fallere.* Let the holie Scripture be to thee as a glasse, this glasse hath no deceytfull or flattering brightnesse, it is not in looue with any mans person. Arte thou beautifull? thou seest thy selfe there beautifull: but when thou commest deformed, accuse not the glasse, aduise thy selfe, the glasse deceyueth thee not, deceyue not thou thy selfe.

Saint *Augustine* sayth, Tom. 2. Epist. 166. *In Scripturis didicimus Christum, in Scripturis didicimus Ecclesiã.* In the Scriptures we haue learned Christe, in the Scriptures we haue learned the Church. Saint *Ambrose* sayth, in Homil. Lib. 4.

Cap.

Cap. 1. *Christus oritur in lectione sol iustitiæ*: In reading the Scriptures, Christ the sonne of righteousnesse ryseth. Saint *Augustine* sayth, *Verbo Dei dos cemur in omnibus*: By the worde of God, we are instructed in all thinges. Saint *Basill*, in Concione: *Quod Deus non causa malorum: verbum Dei exquo solo noscitur Deus, regiam viam monstrat, et est lucerna pedum nostrorum*. The worde of GOD, by the which onely GOD is knowen: sheweth the kinges high way, and is the lyght of our feete. We learne faith in the Scriptures, and not in Popishe Traditions. Saint *Hillarie* sayth, Ad imperatorem Constantinum: to the Emperour Constantinus. *Fidem imperator quæris? audi eam, non de nouit Chartulis, sed de Dei libris*. Dooth your Maiestie seeke the faith? Heare it then, not out of any new scroll, but out of the booke of God. Saint Iohn sayth, Chap. 14. *Qui non diligit me, ex sermones meos non seruat: et sermo quem audistis, non est meus, sed eius qui misit me Patris*. He that loueth me not, keepeth not my words: and the word which ye heare is not mine, but the fathers which sēt me.

If we wyll be contented with the scriptures onely, and goe no farther: we shall receyue great benefite thereby. The blinde shall see, the deafe shall heare, the dumbe shall speake, the lame shall walke, fooles shall be wise, the sicke shall be whole, the dead shall reuiue. The embracing of the worde of GOD, hath made many Papistes, good Christians: many persecutours, holy Martyrs: many proude men, humble: many couetous mylers, lyberall: many cruell tyrantes, mercifull fauourers: many faithlesse, faithfull: many filthy fornicatours, chaste: many furious, and wrathfull, meeke and milde: many slaunderers, speakers of the truth: many backbiters, penitent: many slouthfull and droulie, vigilant & watchfull: many fearefull, bolde, yea, and contempners of Phalaris Bull: many Saules, many Paules: many chyldren of darkneſſe, the chyldren of lyght. God by his worde, offereth to vs his mercifull hande: by faith, we giue to God our hand, and the Sacramentes are as a thirde hand, which confirme and establish, the ioyning of the other two

The inestimable benefite that proceedeth by the word of God.

two together. If you feare the iudgement of sinne, this most precious word offereth you, righteousnesse in Christe: if you feare death, it offereth lyfe: if you feare the fire of hell, it offereth the ioyes of heauen. And briefly, you haue in this word, whence you may take, bothe in lyfe recreation: and in death preseruation, bothe of body and soule euerlastinglie. The word of God is water to refreshe vs, and wine to cheere vs: it is breade to strengthen vs, and Manna to nourishe vs: it is a treasure to enritch vs, and a pearle to adorne vs: it is a leauen to heate vs, and salte to pewder vs: it is a sword to defend vs, and a fire to purge vs: it is a salue to heale vs, and a lantorne to guide vs: it it is a Trumpet to call vs, and wisedome to instruct vs: a way to direct vs, and lyfe to reuiue vs. But alas, we are so farre from labouring for this worde of God, that wheras lyke good husband men, we should labour and digge in the feeld, and sell all that we haue to buie that feelde: whereas, lyke wise merchant men, we should labour and seeke for good pearles, and sell all that we haue, to buie that

The vvorde of God, is the vvhole direction of a mans life.

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pearle of great prise: We (sayth Saint *Mathew.7.*) lyke dogs refuse holy things offered, we turne about, and teare them that doo offer them: We. lyke swine, treade pearles vnder our feete, and do account this pearle, this holy thing, the worde of lyfe, to be vnto vs a ring of golde in a swines snowte. For do the Papistes delight to heare Gods worde: beholde, yet they are lyke the deafe Adder, which stoppeth her eares, at the voice of the Charmer, charme he never so wiselie. Do they loue the bringers of this worde: beholde, yet there is in England an Adders brode, a generation of Vipers. If we haue more regard in the sayinges of the Papistes, and put more confidence in their wordes, then in the Scriptures: howe can we without spedie repentance, but looke for the terrible stroke of vengeaunce? God (sayth *Valerius Maximus*) hath feete of wooll, hee commeth slowlie to punish, but he hath handes of yron, when he commeth, he striketh sore. *Phillip* king of Macedonia, hearing of one in his kingdome, which refused most vnthankfully, to receaue a straunger, of whome before he had bene

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saccoured in shyp-wracke in extréme nède: For a worthy punishment, cansed to be printed in his forehead, with an whotte yron, these wordes: *Ingratus Hospes*, An vnthankfull Guest. So we, by refusing his worde, may we not thinke our selues worthy of many whot yrons, to print our vnthankfulnes to our shame? Thus much for this part.

¶ Of auricular Confession.

THus much you haue heard (dearely beloued) touching the sufficiencie of the worde of God: I haue prooued the sufficiencie thereof, bothe by the testimonies of the Scriptures, as also with the authority of the Doctors. Nowe I meane (God willing) to confute auricular Confession: bothe by Scriptures, Doctors, and Reasons.

The Papistes are not ashamed to say and write, that it is needefull for all men

men and women, and that it is necessarie for all that are come to the yeares of discretion, to confesse to their ghostlie Father (maister popishe Preest) whatsoeuer sinnes they haue committed. If they refuse so to do, our holie Father the Pope, wyll hang them in a Rope, or send them to hell, in ringing Papa Ioannas Bell. If they could proue by the Scriptures, auricular Confession to be lawfull and necessarie, to obtaine forgiuenesse of sinnes: then is it tollerable, yea, and commendable (in respect of obedience to the worde of God) to vse auricular Confession. But if Scriptures thereof, make no mention at all, but rather disproue such whispering of sinnes, in the eares of doltishe Preestes: I take such auricular Confession to be fonde, foolishe, and daungerous: Dost thou reade, O Christian man, that euer the Patriarches were wont to confesse their particular sinnes to Preestes, as the Papistes do at this tyme? dyd the Prophetes vse such auricular Confession? or did the Apostles, or dyd any of the Saintes of the primatiue Church, re-

neale in secreate wise they? particular
faultes to any Confessour, or to any
Priest? I reade of none. If then the
Patriarches, the Prophetes, the A-
postles, the Disciples of Christe, the
holy Saintes of the Primatiue Church,
neuer vsed any auricular Confession;
why then should wee? what example
haue we to followe? what commaun-
dement is there giuen vnto vs, to con-
fesse our sinnes before the Priest? what
lawe doth charge vs, to recken vp all
our sinnes? Is not sinne forgiuen, but
vpon condition, that there be an intent
conceyued to confesse it? where they
bible that there remayneth no entrie
into Paradise, if occasion of confession
be neglected. Must all sinnes be rec-
kened vp? but Dauid (as it is written
Psalm. 19. 13.) who as I thinke, had
well studied vpon the confession of his
sinnes, yet cryed out? Who shall vn-
derstand my errors: Lord cleanse mee
from my secrete sinnes. And in an o-
ther place. Psalm. 28. 15. My iniquities
haue passed abooue my head, and lyke a
weightie burden haue waxed heauy, a-
booue my strength. Truely, he vnder-

In the Pri-
matiue
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Lorde, howe great was the bottomlesse depth of our sinnes: howe many were the sortes, of our mischeuous doinges: howe many heads, this monster Hydra dyd beare: and howe long a tayle she drewe after her. Therefore he went not about to recken vp a register of them, but out of the depth of euyls, he cryed vnto the Lord: I am ouerwhelmed, I am buried and choaked: the gates of hell haue compassed me, let thy hand drawe me out, which am drowned in the great pitte, and am faynting and ready to die. Who now may thinke vpon the numbring of his sinnes, when he seeth that Dauid can make no nũber of his? After this rule of Dauid we see, that the Publicans confession was made, whereof mention is made in the. 18. of Luke, and in the. 38. verse. Ἰησοῦ υἱὲ Δαυὶδ, ἐλέησόν με. Iesu, O sonne of Dauid, haue mercy vpon mee. *Domine miserere mei peccatori.* Lord be mercifull to me a sinner. As if he should say: All that euer I am, I am altogether a sinner: and I cannot attayne with witte, or expresse with tongue, the greatnesse of my sinnes to be confessed? let the bottomlesse depth of thy mercy,

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swallowe vp the bottomlesse depth of my sinne. But then the Papists wil say, what? are not all our sinnes to be cõfessed? is no cõfession acceptable to God, but ỳ which is knit vp in these two words, (I am a sinner?) No, but rather we must endeuor our selues as much as in vs lyeth, to powre out our heart before the Lord, & not onely in one word, confesse our selues sinners: but also truely & hartely acknowledge our selues to be such, & with all our thought, record how great & diuers is our filth of sinnes, not onely that we be vnclene: but with how great, & in how many parts is our vncleänes: not only ỳ we be debters, but with how great debts we be loden, & how many wayes charged: not only ỳ we be woũded, but also with howe many & deadly strokes we be wounded. With this reknowledging, whē ỳ sinner hath wholy powred out him self before God, let him earnestly & sincerely thinke, ỳ yet there remaine mo sins, & that ỳ secret corners of their euils are so deepe, ỳ they can not throughly be disclosed, & he cryeth out wᵗ *David. Psa. 19. 31.* Who vnderstãdeth my errors? Lord clẽase me frõ my hiddẽ sins.

Where the Papistes affyrme, that sinnes are not forgiuen, but with an intent of confessing, firmelie conceyued, and that the gate of Paradise is shut against him that neglecteth occasion offered, when he may be confessed: God forbid that we should graunt them that, for there is no other forgiuenesse of sinnes then alway hath bene. It is not read, that all they who haue confessed theyr sinnes, in the eare of some Priest, that they haue onely therefore obtained forgiuenesse of sinnes at Christes hand: And truely they could not cõfesse, where there were neyther Priestes, confessours, nor any confessing at all. And in many ages after, this confession was vnheard of, at which time, sinnes were forgiuen without this condition. But that we may not neede to dispute longer about this, as about a doubtfull matter: the word of God is plaine, which abydeth for euer. Whensoeuer the sinner repenteth (sayth Christ, by the Prophete *Ezechiel. Chap. 18. 21.*) I will no more remember all his iniquities. He that dare adde any thing to this word, bindeth not sinnes, but the mercie of God: for wher-

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as they say, that iudgement can not be giuen, but when the cause is heard, we haue a solution in readinesse, that they do presumptuously take that vpon them selues, which haue made them selues Iudges. And it is a mervaile that they do so boldlie frame to them selues such principles, as no man in his right witte will graunt. They boast that the office of binding and losing, is committed to them, as though it were a certaine iurisdiction ioyned with Inquisition. Moreouer, their whole doctrine cryeth out: that this authority was vnknown to the Apostles: Neither doth it belong to the Priest, but to him which desireth absolution, to knowe certainly whether the sinner be losed or not. For as much as he that beareth, can neuer knowe whether the reckoning be iust and perfect: so should there be no absolution, but such as is restrained to his words, that is, to be iudged. The Lord crieth out by *Esai. Chap. 43. 15.* It is I, It is I, that doo put away iniquities, for mine owne sake, and will not be mindfull of thy sinnes. Doth he not openly declare, that he setteth the cause & foundation of forgiue-

nesse onely from his owne goodnesse? Moreouer, whereas the whole Scripture beareth witnesse of Christe: That forgiuenesse of sinnes, is to be receyued by the name of Iesus Christe, as it is written in the Actes of the Apostles, Chap.10.43. Doth it not therby exclude all other names? howe then do they teach, that it is receyued by the name of satisfactions? For whereas the Scripture sayth, By the name of Christe: it meaneth that we bring nothing, we alleadge nothing of our owne: but rest vpon the foundation of Christe. As Paul 2.Corin.5.19. where as he affirmeth: That God is reconciling the worlde to him selfe in Christe, for his sake, not imputing to men their sinnes. He immediatly sheweth the meane & manner how: Because he that was without sinne, was made sinne for vs. S. Iohn sayth.1.Epi. 2.Cha. Τεκνία μου, ταῦτα γράφω ὑμῖν, ἵνα μὴ ἁμάρτητε, καὶ ἐάν τις ἁμάρτῃ, παράκλητον ἔχομεν πρὸς τὸν πατέρα, Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν δίκαιον. My babes, these thinges write I vnto you, that yee sinne not: and if any man sinne, we haue an aduocate with the father, Iesus Christ

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the iuſte. And he is the reconciliation for our ſinnes, and not for ours onely, but alſo for the ſinnes of the whole world. And in the. 12. verſe: Lyttle chyldren, I vrite vnto you, becauſe your ſinnes are forgiuen you for his names ſake. In the firſt Chapter of S. Iohn: the ſame Euangeliſt there writeth. Ἰδὲ ὁ ἀμνὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὁ αἴρων τὴν ἁμαρτίαν τοῦ κόσμου. Beholde the Lambe of God, that taketh away the ſinnes of the world. He taketh them away (ſayth he) him ſelfe, and none other: That is to ſay, For as much as he alone is the Lambe of God, he alone is the oblation for ſinnes. He alone the propitiation and ſacrifice, he alone the ſatiſfaction.

Nowe let vs ſée what the Doctours write, and ſpeake againſt auricular Cõfeſſion. Chriſoſtome, which was alſo Biſhoppe of Conſtantinople. Homil. 2. in Pſalm. 50. doth in ſo many places euidently teſtifie, that it is meruayle, that the Papiſts dare mutter to the cõtrary. Tell (ſaith he) thy ſinnes, that thou maiſt doo them away: if thou be aſhamed to tell any man the ſinnes that thou haſt done, tell them dayly in thy ſoule.

I doo not say, confesse them to thy fellowe seruaunt, that may reproch thee: but tell them to God that taketh care of them. Confesse thy sinnes vpon thy bed, that there thy conscience may daily recognise her euyls. Againe: *Serm. De penitentia. Et confessi. Hom. 5.* But it is not necessarie to confesse, when witnesses be present: let the examination of thy sins be done within thy thought. Let this iudgement be without witnesse: let onely God, see thee confessing. Againe: *Deincomprehen Dei, nam contra anomaeos.* I doo not leade thee (sayth *Chrisostome*) into a stage of thy fellowe seruaunts: I doo not compell thee to disclose thy sinnes to men, rehearse and vtter thy conscience before God. Shewe thy woundes to the Lord, the best surgion, and aske salue of him: shewe to him that will reproche thee with nothing, but will most gentlie heale thee. Againe: Hom. 4. *De Lazaro.* Tell not man, least he reproch thee, for neither is it to be confessed to thy fellow seruant, that may vtter it abroade: but to the Lord. To the Lord shew thy woūds, which hath care of thee: that is bothe a gentle, and sweet Phisition. Afterwards

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he bringeth in God, speaking thus. I compell thee not to come into the mids of a stage, and call many witnesses: tell thy sin alone to me priuately, that I may heale thy sore. Shall we say, that Chrisostome dyd so rashlie (when he wrote this & other lyke thinges) that he would deliuer mens consciences from these bondes, wherwith they be bound by the lawe of God? Not so, but he dare not require that, as of necessitie, which he doth not vnderstand to be commaūded by the worde of God. If auricular Confession were the lawe of God, how durst Nectarius Bishop of Constantinople repell and dettrope the same? Will they accuse for an heretique and scismatique, Nectarius a holy man of God, allowed by the consenting voyces of all the olde Fathers? but by the same sentence they must condempne the Church of Constantinople, in which Sozomenus affyrmeth, That the manner of confessing was not only let slip for a tyme, but also discontinewed, euen tyll within time of his remembraunce. Yea, let them condempne of apostasie, not onely the Church of Constantinople: but also all

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the East Churches, which haue neglected that Lawe, which (if they say true) is inuiolable, & commaũded to all Christians. I could alleadge many places out of Ambrose, Augustine, Hierom, and Chrisostome, if the tyme would permyt: Wherfore the authority of Chrisostom against auricular Confession, the bearing of the godlie may satisfie. I will proceede nowe farther, to disproue auricular Confession, by reason. First, I demaund, howe can the Prest or Confessour, absolue me of my sinnes, who hath nede of absolution him selfe: can he pardon my sinnes, that can not pardon his owne? Moreouer, if he that confesseth be a naughty man, and hath cõmitted some notorious fact, he will be affrayd to confesse the same in the eare of the Prest, least he be so lewde, as to reueale his confession: & so by that meanes the party that confesseth, may dispayre of his saluation, onely for ỹ he made his cõfession vnperfect, not discouering all the faults which he had cõmitted: besides that, the Prest may ioyne him such a penaunce, that the partie confessed to accomplishe may refuse: and so may forsake all hope

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of saluation. But that I may speake a word merely, and peraduenture say no more then ỳ truth is: I take the cause of confession to be this, that Prests being vnmaried (and were sworne to do as ỳ fore dyd, to fast when he got no meate, and so they to be chaste, when they got no Concubines,) might in hearing the confession of many, knowe who were most inclined and prone to carnall delectation. And shē that were found such a one, should heare in stede of, *Absolue te nomine patris, &c.* These wordes, *Absolue te nomine Papæ, Concubinæ, et nothi.* I absolue thee, in the name of the Pope, his Concubine, and bastard, that thou commest to my bed this night. I will prone this to be the cause of auricular Confession by an example. In the tyme of king Henrie the. 8, as I vnderstode by many ỳ tolde me the same exāple which nowe I vtter vnto you: There was a Prest here in England, that got a very fayre Gentlewomā, in hearing her cōfession, & in stede of absolution, to be his waighting-maid: This prest fearing lest that this Gentlewomās husband should (not finding his wife at home) serch for her in his

The craftie deuise of Preestes, to coullor their knauerie.

A prettie tale of a Preest and his Lemman.

his Parsonage or Vicarage (I can not tell which:) he toke him a goodlie and a lustie Gelding, and rode forth, having his woman behinde him the most parte of the night, vntyll he had found a shepheards lodge, where he rested himselfe a whyle. But when they were merie at supper: the Kings Trumpetter hauing repayred thither, bothe for that he was gone out of the way, and knew not how farre he had to any lodging, and also for that it rayned apace: reposed him selfe vpon a hey mowe, which was in the same lodge, in a corner distant from the Priest and his woman. The blacke Moorian Trumpetter, spying some in the shepheardes lodge, and making ioyfully good cheare, sounded out his Trumpette: the Priest and his woman loking on him, and seing his face so black, thought him to be the Deuill, they ran away on foote, & left all things behinde: the Trumpetter lost nothing by that shifte. The Priest beguiled the woman belike, in telling her that she could not be saued, vnlesse she would consent vnto his vnhoneste requeste: Wherefore, in lyke manner he was deceiued, in taking the

Behold the fruites of confession.

the Moorian to be the Deuill.

What great inconueniences haue growen out of auricular Confeſſion, daylie experience taught the ſame. The Prieſt hath the burning heate of fleſhly luſte extinguiſhed, the Daughter is defiled, and the Matrone is at the Prieſts becke e commaundement. Mens ſinnes oftentymes by the Prieſtes, haue bene diſcouered, great enmitie, diſcentions, and bloody Combates, proceaded thereof. To auoide theſe occaſions of euils, (whereof auricular Confeſſion is the cauſe) good it were and profitable, no more to reueale our ſinnes to the Prieſtes. Confeſſion the cauſe of whoredom.

Thus haue I briefly diſproued auricular Confeſſion, both by Scriptures, Doctours, and Reaſons. Nowe I purpoſe (God willing) to proceede farther, to other principall pointes of Religion: which be in controuerſie betwene vs and the Papiſtes. Let this ſuffice for auricular Confeſſion, more at large could I haue ſpoken thereof. But as the common prouerbe is, *Quod ſatis eſt ſufficit*, Enough is as good as a feaſt: Sufficiencie ſuffiſeth.

¶Of

¶Of Faith.

TO speake of Faith, for as much as it importeth not onely ỳ confidence which we haue in God: but in as much as it includeth also with that cõfidence, the very knowledge of God, wheron dependeth, Faith, Hope, and Charitie, according to the iudgement of Saint Paule. Hebr. 11. ἐστι δὲ πίστις ἐλπιζομένων ὑπόστασις, πραγμάτων ἔλεγχος ὁ βλεπομένων. Faith is the ground of thinges which are hoped for, and the euidence of things which are not seene. Therefore Faith is not (as many do thinke) a certayne obscure lyght of God, and a certayne trifling and friuolous opinion: but it is an euident lyght, a certayntie and assurance of the minde, and a cleare shyning, which beeing our guide, we see that God is so mightie, wise and good, that he can, that he knoweth howe, and that he wyll saue vs. Therefore, with a sure and stedfast confidence, we put our trust in him, repose and cast our selues

ſelues wholly vpon him. Faith is the ſheeld, wherewith we quench all the fierie dartes of the wicked. *Ephe.6.16.* And againe: Faith is the mouth, bellie and ſtomacke, by the which we feede on the body and blood of Chriſte, beeing at the right hand of his Father in heauen. *Iohn.6.56.57.* And againe: Faith is the ladder that reacheth vp to heauen, and by which euen nowe, we remayne and ſitte in the heauenly places with Chriſt. *Ephe.2.6.* Faith is the hand by which we take holde of Chriſte, in whome is performed all the promiſes of God to his elect. *2.Cor.1.20.* Faith is that weapō, by which we ouercome the world, the end wherof is the ſaluatiō of our ſoules. Faith is a cleare and effectual perſuaſion, wrought, not in the bodily eares, but in the eares of the heart, not by men, but by the holy ghoſt, wherby we are made certaine and ſure to be the ſonnes of God. Faith (as it is written in the.8.Cha.to ỹ *Rom.*) is a firme, cōſtant, and perſeuering truſt, in the boūtifulnes of God. Faith is a lyght, which lyfteth vp, & rauiſheth aboue all ſenſible things, and beyond that any man is not able to make diſcourſe.

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to comprehende the breadth, length, height, and depth of those things which are to vs incomprehensible with naturall eyes. Faith is a cleere eye of the mind, wherewith, pearcing through the heauens, we doo see the diuine secretes of God. Faith is a quickening, cleere and fiery lyght, which purgeth our heartes and delyuereth vs from the darke and inextricable Laborinthes of the vaine shadowes of this worlde: by which we guide our blinde reason, and are lyfted vp to an high estate: so that by the taste of heauenly thinges, we despise humane thinges. *Roma. 4.* Faith maketh vs to conceiue Christe spirituallie, and by force of the spirite to be borne againe, with lyfting vs vp vnto God: it maketh vs put of the olde Adam and his concupiscences, and to put on Christe with his vertues, and to become of vngodlie, iust temples of God. and his chyldren, brothers, and members of Christe. Faith iustifieth, pacifieth the minde and conscience, maketh merie, causeth to reioyce, and in such sort, that we glory euen in shame. This faith is such, that it renewеth vs, regenerateth vs, quickeneth

keneth, maketh noble, enritcheth, sa-
neth, sanctifieth, preserueth, defendeth,
and obteyneth that which it demaun-
deth. Faith knitteth vs to God, ma-
keth vs his heyres and Children, the
brothers of Christe, and his members,
yea, it maketh vs diuine and happy.
Faith is that which in *Abell* made
him offer Sacrifices, acceptable to
God: In *Noe*, caused him to frame the
Arke, for the sauegarde of the worlde:
Made *Sara* to conceyue, and that *Abra-
ham* offred his owne sonne to God: Cau-
sed *Moses* to worke so many woonders
in *Egipt*, and in the wylderneſſe. Faith
made the Prophets to speake, loosed the
tongue of *Zacharias*, and saued men in
daunger: made *Simeon*, not to feare
death: also, made *Paule* to wishe for it.
This in the Saintes caused them (o-
uercomming the worlde) that they haue
wrought wonderfull thinges, through
loue.

But what nede I speake any more?
Faith is a vertue, so noble, excellent,
and worthy, that howe much the more
a man considereth of it: so much the
more wyll it discouer the perfection.

Therefore, he which hath tasted it, wyll neuer be satisfied, with speaking in prayse thereof. Whereas those which neuer haue felt, nor tried it in them selues, can as much speake thereof, as one that is blinde can discerne of coulours, yea, if those speake of it, as those which be carnall and brutishe: they do not vnderstand it, nor knowe the excellencie thereof.

He that hath this lively Faith, whereof the scripture, in sundry places speaketh, and so highlie commendeth, with so many tytles, before specified: he is sure to be iustified, he is sure to be saued. This faith made *Abraham* righteous. *Gen.15.6.* By this faith, the iust lyueth. *Haba.2.4.* This faith made the woman whole, to whome Iesus sayde: *Confide filia, fides tua saluam te fecit.* Daughter, be of good comfort, thy faith hath made thee whole. Μὴ φοβοῦ, μόνον πίστευε, Be not afrayde, (saith *Luke*, in the 8. Chapt. 48. verse) Beleeue onely. And he sayde to the woman: Ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε, πορεύου εἰς εἰρήνην.

Thy

Thy Fayth hath saued thee, goe in peace.

To him giue all the Prophetes witnesse: That through his name, all that beleeue in him, shall receyue remission of sinnes. *Actes. 10. 43.*

And put no difference betweene vs, and them, after that by fayth, hee had purified theyr heartes.

There is no dyfference: For all haue sinned, (Sayth Saint Paule. *Roma. 3. 23.*) and are depriued of the glorie of GOD: and are iustified freelie, by his grace, through the redemption that is in Christe Iesus.

Therefore wee conclude, that a man is iustified by Faith, without the workes of the Lawe: but to him that worketh not, but beleeueth in him that iustifieth the vngodlye, his Faith is counted for ryghteousnesse, wee being iustified by Faith, wee haue peace towards God, through Iesus Christe.

Knowe that a man is not iustifyed, by the workes of the Lawe, but by the Fayth of Iesus Christe:

Euen as I saye, we haue beleaued in Iesus Christe, that we might be iustified by the faith of Iesus Christe, and not by the workes of the Lawe: Because that by the workes of the Lawe, no flesh shall be iustified. *Gala.2.16.*

Againe, if righteousnesse be by the law, then Christe dyed without a cause: And that no man is iustified by the lawe, in the sight of God, it is euident: For the iust shall liue by faith. *Gala.3.* By grace are ye saued through faith, Sayth *Paule* to the *Ephe.* 2.8. and that not of your selues, it is the gifte of God. The scripture hath included all vnder sinne, that the promise by the faith of Iesus Christe, should be giuen to them that beleaue.

Origene writeth, in his thirde Booke, and third Chapter, to the Romaines, that Saint Paule by these wordes: *Arbitramur enim iustificari hominem absque operibus legis*: We suppose therfore, that man is iustified by faith, without the workes of the lawe. Affyrmeth that the iustification, *Solæ fidei*, Of faith onely: is sufficient, so that any man beleauing onely, can be iustified: although no manner

ner of woꝛke hath bene fulfilled, oꝛ done by him. And if we require an example, who was iuſtified (*Sola fide*) By faith onely, without woꝛkes: I ſuppoſe that the ſame Theefe doth ſuffiſe, who when he was crucified with Chriſte, did crye vnto him frō the Croſſe: Lord Ieſu, remember me when thou commeſt into thy kingdome. Neither any good woꝛke of his is deſcribed, oꝛ ſet foꝛth vnto vs in the Goſpels: but foꝛ (*Hāc ſolā fidē*) This faith onely. Jeſus ſayde vnto him: Verelie, I ſaye vnto thee: this daye ſhalt thou be with mee in Paradiſe. This Theefe then was iuſtified by faith, without the woꝛkes of the lawe. Foꝛ the Lord dyd not vpon this requyre, what he had wꝛought before, neyther dyd he take what woꝛke he ſhould do after he did beleeue: but being ready to enter into Paradiſe, he toke him foꝛ his waighting-man, being iuſtified by that confeſſion onely.

Heſichius, in his foꝛth Booke, and firſt Chapter vpon Leuiticus, ſaith: That the grace of God, is giuen onely of mercie and fauour: and is embraced and receyued (*Sola fide*) by onely fayth.

Hierome, vppon the tenth Chapter to the *Romaines*. They not knowing that God iustifieth (*Sola fide*) by Faith onely,) and suppose them selues to be iust, by the workes of the lawe, which they neuer obserued, they would not submit them selues vnto the remission of sinnes, least they should seeme to haue beene sinners. *Hillarie*, in the ninth Canon vpon the.8. of *Mathewe*. It mooueth the Scribes, that sinne was forgiuen by man, for they dyd onely beholde man in Christe Iesu, and that to be forgiuen of him, which the lawe could not release, (*Fides enim sola iustificat*) For faith only iustifieth. *Basill*, in his Homilie of *Humility*. That at length is a perfect and sound reioycing in God, when a man dooth not bragge and boast of his owne righteousnesse, he is iustified (*Sola fide*) By faith onely in Christe. Thus haue I recited, bothe Scriptures and Doctours, for proofe that a man is iustified onely by Faith: more places out of the Scriptures and Doctours, might be gathered: But these may suffise for this matter.

¶ Of

¶Of Free wyll.

IWyll proue bothe by Scriptures and Doctours, that free wyll was giuen vnto man euen before his fall, & after his fall. That man had free wyll before his fall, these testimonies of the Scriptures alleadged, do testifie the same. In Genesis the first Chapter, and 26. verse, there it is written. *Et ait Deus, faciamus hominem ad imaginem et similitudinem nostram, et præsit piscibus maris, et volatilibus cæli, et bestijs vniuersæque terræ, omnique reptili quod mouetur in terra.* God sayd: let vs make man in our owne Image, according to our likenesse, and let him rule ouer the Fishes of the sea, and ouer the Fowles of the heauen, and ouer the Beastes, and ouer all the earth, and ouer euerie thing that creepeth, and mooueth on the earth.

If hee had rule ouer the Beastes of the fælde, of the Fowles of the ayre, and of the Fishes of the Sea:

be had then frée wyll. And whereas it is written, That God made man to his own image: It is not meant of the body, nor yet of the soule, but of principallitie & dominion. In the.2. Chap. of Gen it is written. *Tulit ergo Dominus Deus hominem, et posuit eum in Paradisum voluptatis, vt operaretur, et custodiret illum, precepitque ei dicens: ex omni ligno Paradisi comedes.* Then the Lord God tooke the man, and put him into the garden of Eden, that he might dresse it, and keepe it: and the Lord God commaunded the man, saying: thou shalt eat freely of euerie Tree of the garden. By these words I gather, that seeing it was graunted by God to man, to eate of euerie Tree of the garden: then had he frée wyll to do as he would, to eate or not to eate. Againe, Eccles.15.14. *Deus ab initio cõstituit hominem, et reliquit illum in manu consily sui, adiecit mandata, et precepta sua: si volueris mandata seruare, conseruabunt te. &c.* He made man from the beginning, and left him in the hand of his counsell, and gaue him his commaundementes and preceptes: if thou wilt, thou shalt obserue the commaundementes,

and

and testifie thy good wyll. You se that frē wyll was graunted vnto man, be-fore his fall. God created him, and left him in the hand of his counsell, to do what he would, he had his owne choise, eyther to the eating of suerie Trē of the garden, and so to lyue eternallie in pleasures, delightes, ioye, rest, and qui-etnesse: or to eate of the Trē of know-ledge, of good and bad, and so to become mortall, to leese his former state, to be-come myserable, wretched, a caitife, sub-iect to death, hell, and dampnation. Againe, in the same Chap. of Eccle. 15. 17. *Appositit tibi aquam et ignem, ad quod volueris porrige manum tuam.* And in the 18. verse. *Ante hominem vita et mors, bo-num et malum, quod placuerit ei dabitur illi.* He hath set water, and fire before thee, stretch out thy hand vnto which thou wilt: Before man is life and death, good and euyll: what it lyketh him, it shall be giuen him. Here we se moste manifestly, that man had frē wyll be-fore his fall. For if the first man Adam could haue chosen, eyther lyfe or death, good or euyll: who can with reason de-nie, but that he had frē wyll? For frē

wyll

wyll is nothing else, but a frée and lose lybertie of the minde, to doo as he lyst.

An euident signe of free wyll.

Our Parentes, Adam and Eue, might haue lyued: but they would not. Adam and Eue had theyr choyse, eyther to lyue, or to dye, to lyue and to doo good, obseruing his commaundement, and to dye if they would doo euyll, neglecting his precept. They followed the counsell of the Serpent, in eating the fruite forbidden, and so offended Gods Maiestie.

Wherefore, it appeareth by these wordes, that they had frée wyll to doo as they were commaunded, and so to lyue in Paradise: or to breake the commaundement of God, and so to dye, banished out of Paradise. Eccle. 17. 1. *Deus creauit de terra hominem, et iterum conuertit illum in ipsam*. The Lord hath created man of the earth, and turned him to it againe. *Numerum dierum, et tempus dedit illi, &c.* He gaue him the number of dayes, and certaine tymes, and gaue him power of the thinges that are vpon earth. He cloathed him with strength, as he had made: and made him according to his Image. He made all flesh

to

to feare him, so that he had dominion ouer the Beastes and Fowles. He created vnto him a helper, lyke vnto him selfe, and gaue him discretion, and tongue, and eyes, eares, and an heart to vnderstand: and sixtlie, he gaue him a spirite: and seuenthly, he gaue him speeche to declare his woorkes: and he filled him with knowledge, of good and euyll. And he sayde vnto him, Beware of all vnrighteous thinges.

Wisd. 23. *Deus creauit hominem inexterminabilem, et ad imaginem similitudinis sue fecit illum.* God created man without corruption, and made him after the Image of his owne lykenesse.

Colos. 3. 9. Lye not one to an other, seeing that yee haue put off the olde man, with his workes, and haue put on the newe, which is renewed in knowledge, after the Image of him that created him. *Ephes. 4. 23.* Be yee renewed in the spirite of your minde. 24. And put on the newe man, which after GOD is created in righteousnesse and true holinesse.

Omnes

Omnes homines, (Sayth Ambrose in his first Booke, and third Chapter, of the calling of the Gentiles) *in primo homine creati sunt sine vicio et culpa, et tota natura nostra integra et valida erat, et peccato istius hominis, totius nostræ naturæ integritatem et salutem amisimus.* All men in the first man were created, without vice or faulte, and all our nature was founde and in health: and by the sinne of the same man, we haue lost it. Augustine in the booke of the new Song, the. 8. Chapter. Free will before the fall, was an vpright free will: before which, fire and water was layde of God, and the first man dyd reach his hand to which he would, he dyd chuse fire, and forsooke water. See the righteous Iudge, the same which man hauing free, he dyd chuse, he dyd receyue: he would haue euyll, and the same dyd followe him. Againe, in his second disputation, against Fortunatus: *Dico liberam in eo primo homine fuisse voluntatem, sic enim creatus erat primus homo, vt voluntati suæ nihil resistere potuit, si Dei mandata obseruasset: Sed quando sua sponte deliquisset, omnes nos ex sua stirpe prognatos in necessitatem duxit.* I saye, that

that free wyll was in that man, which was created first, for he was so made, that nothing could withstand his will, if hee would haue kepte Gods commaundementes: but after that he had sinned through free wyll, he dyd cast vs (all that came out of his stocke) into necesitie. **In his second Sermon vpon the wordes of the Apostle.** It is true, that man, when he was made, did receiue great strength of free wyll, but he dyd loose it by sinne againe. **In the same Booke, and. 11. Chapter.** The first man was created in nature, without blame in nature, without fault, he was created vpright: he dyd not make him selfe vpright, it is knowen what he made him selfe, falling out of the hand of the potter, he was broken, for he that made him, dyd gouerne him, but he was wylling to forsake him that had made him, and God suffered him so to do, as it were saying thus. Let him forsake mee, that he may finde him selfe, and that he may by his myserie prooue, that without me he can doo nothing. **By this meane therefore, would God shewe vnto man, what free wyll is able to do without**

God,

God. *Certò scias,* (saith S. Auguſt.) *& ne ambigas, quòd primi noſtri parentes Adam et Eua creati erant boni, iuſti, et ſine peccato, cum libera voluntate, qua poterãt ſi voluiſſent, ſeruire, et obedire humilitate & libera voluntate, et cum illa libera voluntate poterant, ſi voluiſſent, propria ſua natura peccare.* Hold this for certainty, and doubt of it by no meanes: that our firſt Parentes, *Adam* and *Eue*, were created good, iuſt, and without ſinne, with free wyll, by the which they might, if they would ſerue and obey, with humilitie, and good wyll: and by the ſame free wyll, alſo might if they would, ſinne by their owne proper wyll. Againe, in his booke of Nature and Grace, againſt the Pellagians. Chap. 45. Who knoweth not, that man was made ſounde, and blameleſſe, and with free wyll to lyue godlie, and was ordayned with a free power, and choyſe to lyue righteouſly. Againe, in his booke againſt the Iewes, Pagans, and Arrians. Chapter. 2. The firſt man was made of the ſlyme of the earth, to the Image of GOD: he was decked with ſhamefaſtneſſe: he was prepared with temperaunce: he was com-

compaſſed about with loue : he was doathed with immortalitie. In his 2. Booke, and thirtie Chapter, of the Cittie of God. Free wyll was giuen to man, when he was firſt created, by the which he might haue choſen, eyther to ſinne, or not to ſinne.

Thus much you haue heard out of Scriptures and Doctours, teaching fre wyll, before the fall of Adam and Eue.

Nowe wyll I ſpeake a little of mans fre wyll after his fall. *Videns autem Dominus, quòd multa malitia hominum eſſet in terra, et cuncta cogitatio cordis intenta eſſet ad malum omni tempore*, The Lord ſawe, that the wickednesſe of man was great in earth, and all the imaginations of the thoughtes of his heart, were onely euyll continually. *Gene. 6. 5. Nequaquam vltrà maledicam terræ propter homines, ſenſus enim et cogitatio humani cordis in malum prona ſunt, ab adoleſcentia ſua*. And the Lord ſayde in his heart, I wyll hencefoorth curſe the ground no more for mans cauſe, for the imaginations of mans heart is euyll, euen from his youth. *Gene. 8. 21.*

And

And moreouer, it is writtē in the Psl.143 Hachol sar iachdau, geelachu en garuechad : παντες ἐξέκλιναν, ἅμα ἠχρεώθησαν, οὐκ ἔστι ποιῶν χρηστότητα, οὐκ ἔστιν ἕως ἑνός. *Vnusquisque declinauit, vnanimiter deteriores facti sunt, non est qui faciat bonum : ne vnus quidem.* All are gone out of the way, they are all corrupt : there is none that dooth good, no not one. And in the. 49. *Psalm.* Adam bichar velo, iafin gimshal, chabechemods gidmu : καὶ ἄνθρωπος ἐν τιμῇ ὤν, οὐ συνῆκε, παρασυνεβλήθη τοῖς κτήνεσι τοῖς ἀνοήτοις, καὶ ὡμοιώθη αὐτοῖς. *Homo in honore, et sine intellectu: comparatus est iumentis, quæ intereūt,* Man is in honour, and vnderstandeth not : he is lyke to beastes, that perishe. *Ambrose* in his Booke of the calling of the Gentiles, the thyrd Chapter. All men in the first man, were created without fault or vice, and all our natures were in health, but by the transgression of the same man, we haue lost it. There hence is drawen mortalitie : there hence are so many corruptions of the minde : there

hence

hence is ignorance, and difficultie, unprofitable and unlawfull concupiscence, &c. These therefore and other evils, breake into our nature by lost faith, forsaken hope, blinde wisedome, bound wyll, no man doth finde in him selfe, wherewith he may be repayred or amended. That nature was good, was made cupll by qualitie, man may not therefore trust in his owne strength, for when it was whole and sound, it could not stand, but must seeke victorie by him which can not be overcome, but doth overcome all thinges. Saint *Augustine* upon the *Psalm.* 118. When I was ignorant, God did teach me: when I did erre, God did reduce me: when I did sinne, God did correct me: when I did fall, God did rayse me: when I did stand, God did holde me: when I did goe, God did leade me: when I came to him, he did receyue me. The Soule (sayth *Guilielmus Parisiensis*, in his booke of the sum of Vices and Vertues) is in such manner let downe into the body, as if a man should fall into a mierie deepe, and stony place, and so should bothe be drowned, arayed with myre, and also be

A notable instruction for all men to remember.

hurt. So by originall sinne, we are drowned in the darknesse of ignorance, wée are defiled with lustes and concupisense: and we are wounded, as touching the powers and faculties of the minde. At this tyme, touching this matter of frée wyll, before the fall of our first Parents, Adam and Eue, and after they fall, wyll I speake no more, but héere make an ende. I wyll prosecute the other poyntes of Religion, in order as I purposed to handle them.

¶ Against Purgatorie, and praying for the dead.

THe Papistes (déerely beloued) are verie busie, kéepe much babling, and vse many circumstances of talke, to defend their fayned Purgatorie, their paper walles, and paynted fires. They prate verie much, but proone lyttle, yea, nothing that is to the trueth they allege.

They

They are not afrayde (so impudent and shameleſſe they are) to say that Purgatorie standeth with the Scriptures, and also was allowed by the olde wryters, of the anncient and Catholique Church. This they can not verifie, by all the Canonicall Scriptures, neyther yet it was allowed in the primatiue Church, that we ought to beleeue that there is a Purgatorie. Therefore bothe King Henrie the eight, and also King Edward the first, with all the learned and godly Clergie of England: in taking away the vaine and erronious doctrine of popishe Purgatorie, and in abolishing or putting downe the Massing sacrifices for the dead, forbydding dirges, and other lyke trumperie, to be vsed any more, dyd most Catholiquely, and Christianlike. If they? sayinges in this matter, touching Purgatorie, and prayeng for the dead, doo agree with the Scriptures, and be grounded vpon Gods worde, we wyll take them for vndoubted, and infallible trueth: if not, we wyll followe the counsell of the blessed Apostle Saint Paule, who writeth on this manner:

The great impudencie of the Papistes, in alleadging their Purgatorie.

If an Angell from heauen should preach vnto you any other Gospel besides that, that ye haue receyued, let him be accursed. Yea, we wyll followe the counsell of the olde auncient writers themselues, of whome Ireneus, writing against Valentinus, and other lyke heretiques, sayth plainely thus: *Scripturis diuinis niti, quae certa et indubitata veritas est, in firma et valida petra est domum suam aedificare: hac verò derelicta, aliis niti quibusdam doctrinis, effusa arena (vnde facilis eversio est) domum suam inaedificare.* That is to say: To leane vpon the holy Scriptures, which are the sure and vndoubted trueth, is to builde his house vpon a sure and strong rocke: but if leauing it (I meane the trueth of the Scriptures,) any man dooth sticke to some other Doctors, the same is to builde his house vpon the vnstedfast sande, where it shall easily fall.

Seeing then that the canonicall scriptures, make no mention at all of Purgatorie, or of prayying for the dead: if we should followe the doctrine of men in this poynt, leauing the infallible worde of God, wherein all thinges that pertayne to the saluation, of all soules and bodies

nies, be moſt ſufficently ſet forth and
mprcher ded: were it not I pray you,
rording to Ireneus ſaying: To builde
on the vnſtedfaſt ſande? Saint Am-
oſe cryeth out, ſaying: *Non noua omnia,*
e Chriſtus non docuit iure damnamus,
a ſi delibus via Chriſtus eſt: ſi igitur Chris
s non docuit, quod docemus, etiam nos id
teſtabile iudicamus: We doo by right
ndemne all newe thinges, that Chriſte
ch not taught, for Chriſte vnto the
ithfull is the way: if therefore Chriſte
ch not taught this that we teach, we
o alſo iudge it deteſtable.

Creept then, they can proue, that
hriſte, who is the way vnto the faith-
ull, dyd teach vs in his Goſpell & word,
belæue that there is Purgatorie, and
at it is requiſite to pray for them, that
departed out of this lamētable maze
mpſerie: We wyll be ſo bolde with
aint Ambroſe, to iudge, coumpt, and
cken, that doctrine which teacheth vs
belæue that there is Purgatorie, and
horteth vs to pray for the dead, to be
oſt deteſtable and deuilliſhe, who ſo-
er be Author of it, though it were an
ngell from heauen. Let vs doo what

we can here in this world to gaine e-
ternall lyfe: for doubtlesse after this life
departed, Prayer or Masse may say, *Re-*
quiescat in pace: but may nothing helpe
vs in glory, to beholde Gods face, here
during life, perpetuall ioy is wonne, or
euerlasting sorrowe is gotten. Fasting,
nor almose dedes, repentance, nor right-
eousnesse, good nor euyll can neyther
profite or hurt after our death. Lazarus
cõmeth not vnto the ritch, nor the ritch
vnto Lazarus: the ritch receyueth not
the thing that he dooth aske, though he
dooth aske it with earnest prayers of the
mercifull Abraham. For the Garners &
Sellers he made faste, the time is accõ-
plished & past, the battaile foughten, and
the place thereof emptie and voide, the
Crownes are giuen: they ỹ haue fough-
ten, are at rest, they that haue not pre-
uented or come before, are gone: they
that haue not foughtẽ, be no more there,
& they that haue bene ouercommed, are
driuen out. For all thinges are plainlie
consumated and ended, by and by after
the departing out of this world: but
whyles they be yet all in the conflict or
battaile: there is yet hope, there is a

Not all the Papisticall incãtations, or exorsisms can help vs after we be dead.

me-

medicine and confession. And although these things be not in all men most perfect, yet the saluation of other is not without hope. And vnto this Saint Hierome doth agree, writing on this manner, in his .13. question. 2. Chapter.

In præsenti seculo scimus, siue orationibus, siue consilijs, inuicem nos iuuari posse: cum autem ante tribunal Christi venerimus, nec Iob, nec Daniel, nec Noah rogare posse pro quoquam, sed vnum quemque portare onus suum. We knowe, that in this worlde, we can be helped, one of an other, either with prayers, or with counsayle: but after we be come once before the iudgement seate of Christe, neyther *Iob*, nor *Daniel*, nor *Noah*, be able to pray for any body, but euerie man shall beare his owne burden.

And vppon the ninth Chapter of Ecclesiastes, these be his wordes. *Peccator viuens, iusto mortuo, si voluerit in eius virtutes transire, melior esse potest. Quare? quia viuentes metu mortis possunt bona opera perpetrare; mortui verò nihil valent ad id adijcere, quod secum tulere de vita.* A sinner yet liuing, may be better, then a righteous

man that is dead, if he wil follow his vertues. And wherfore? for that they that be alyue, may for feare of death, doo yet good deedes: but they that be dead, are able to doo nothing vnto that, which they haue once borne away out of this lyfe with them.

Therfore, it is wisedome to make our selues ready afore, and to prepare oyle for our Lampes, that is to say, to gette vnto vs a liuely faith, working through charitie, doing good deedes whyle we haue tyme, for when we be once gone, there is no more tyme of well doing, of repentaunce, or of amendment of lyfe: the gate of mercie is shut. We can adde nothing vnto that, that we haue once caried away with vs out of this world. Oh that this would sinke into mennes hearts, oh that they would remember this, then we would not trust and haue affiaunce in the good workes of other men: we would not be to seeke, and buie oyle, when it is more tyme to goe in with the Bridegroome, least it should be sayde vnto vs: Verelie I say vnto you, I knowe you not. Watch ye therefore, for ye knowe not the howre, when the sonne

I would to God this would be remembred of all men.

sonne of man shall come. Put not your trust in the prayers, and dirges of popish Prestes: the crowne of glorie, is here eyther lost or wonne: Everlasting saluation is here prouided for, by the due worshipping of God, and the fruits of Faith. Nowe grace is graunted, craue and haue, be bolde and feare not: nowe is the tyme, of obtayning eternall blessednesse: nowe is the day of Iubylie: nowe is the gate open vnto pardon and forgiuenesse, and they that seeke the trueth, shall haue an easie accesse vnto it. Nowe pray while you haue tyme vnto God for your sinnes, who is the true and onely God, call vpon him with a faithfull confession, & acknowledging both of your offences, and of your state cõsidering: Thus confessing & beleeuing, we haue free pardon and forgiuenesse giuen and graũted vnto vs, of the mere goodnesse and mercy of God. While we haue tyme, let vs therefore do good, for being once departed out of this lyfe, repentance is too late. Ciprianus, *Tractatu primo contra Demetrianum*, Sayth: *Quando hinc excessum fuerit, nullus iam locus poenitentiæ est, nullus satisfactio*

God graunt vs to vse this time, to his glorie, & our soules health.

onis

onis effectus. Hic vita aut amittitur aut tenetur, hic saluti æternæ cultu Dei, et fructu fidei prouidetur, &c. That is to say: After we be once departed out of this lyfe, there is no more place of repentaunce, there is no more effect or working of satisfaction, it is but in vaine, that your freendes should pray for you. It is but follie, that Prestes should sing a *Requiem* for your soules, saying that theyr prayers and dirges profit nothing at all. There is in sundrie places of the Scriptures of heauen and hell expresse mention: but of Purgatorie, no speeche at all. Purgatorie for lucre sake, of late yéres was inuented. How often is it written in the Scriptures, that they which beléeue in Christe shall be saued, and they that beléeue not, shall be condempned: they that doo good, shall goe to lyfe euerlasting, but they which doo euyll, to paine eternall. Héere is mention you of saluation and condempnation, of ioye and of sorrowe, of perpetuall life & death for euer: of heauen, and of hell. But the scriptures wrote nothing of Purgatorie: and if there had béen such a place, no doubt

doubt, but there had bene mentiō made therof. Chriſoſt. in. 22. Mathew, Hom. 41. *Quidquid quæritur ad ſalutem, totum iam impletum eſt in ſcripturis.* Whatſoeuer is ſought vnto ſaluation, all the ſame is ſet foorth, and fully taught in the ſcriptures. If then praying for the dead, were neceſſary vnto ſaluation: erpreſſe mention thereof, ſhould be made in the ſcriptures, and worde of God, but we can finde no ſuch thing there. Againe, in an other place, 1. Homilie, in Epiſt. Ad Titum. *Omnia Euangelium continet præſentia et futura, honorem, pietatem, fidem, ſimul omnia prædicationis verbo concluſit.* The Goſpell (ſayth he) dooth contayne all thinges, bothe preſent and to come, honour, godlineſſe, fayth: to be ſhort, he hath comprehended all thinges with the worde of preaching. Dooth not holie Chriſoſtome, by theſe wordes, manifeſtly declare, that the Goſpell of our ſauiour Jeſus Chriſte, dooth containe all maner of things, bothe preſēt, that is to ſay, how we ought to behaue our ſelues hēre in this preſent life, towards God & our neighbour: and alſo things to come? wherby he dooth vnderſtand, the eſtate

that

that we shall be in, after our departing out of this lyfe. But where doth the Gospell speake one iote onely, of prayers and oblations for the dead? there we dow learne, that they that beleeue and are baptized, shall be saued, and they that beleeue not, shall be contempned. There we reade in the. 7. Chapter of Saint *Mathew*: Of the straight and narrowe way, that leadeth vnto saluation: and of the wide gate and broade way, that leadeth vnto damnation. Not one onely sillable can be found there of any thyrde way, or of any other estate that we shall be in, besides saluation and dampnation, after that we be come to our wayes ende. Which thing Chrisostome him selfe, in his second Sermon, De Lazaro, dooth teach most plainly, saying: *Para ad exitum opera tua, et appara te ad viam, si quid cui rapuisti, redde, et dicito iuxta Zachæum, do quadruplum si quid rapui. Si cui factus es inimicus, reconciliare priusquam veniatur ad iudicem. Omnia hic dissolue, vt citra molestiam illud videas tribunal. Dos nec hic fueris, spes habeas præclaras, sed simulac discesserimus, non est postea in nobis situm pœnitere, neque commissa diluere.*

In the scriptures, no mention made of prayng for the dead.

That

That is to say: Prepare thy workes against the ende, make thy selfe ready to the way: if thou hast taken away any thing from any man, restore it againe, and say with *Zachæus*, if I haue taken away any thing from any man, I doo giue it him againe fourefolde. If thou be made an enimie to any man, be reconciled vnto him againe, afore ye come before the Iudge. Paie all thy debtes heere, that thou mayst without any feare, or trouble of conscience, see that dreadfull iudgement seate. Whiles we be yet here, we haue a goodly hope, but as soone as we be once departed hence, it lyeth no more in vs, for to repent, nor for to wash away our sinnes. This holy Father then, wyll not that we should tarie to make restitution, or to be reconciled vnto those, whome we haue offended, tyll we be dead. For then sayth he: I meane after we be once departed out of this world, there is no way at all to wash away sinnes. In so much that he sayth in an other place. *Neque qui in præsenti vita peccata non abluerit, postea consolationem aliquam inuenturus est in inferno, enimuero, quis confitebitur tibi? et meritò*

hoc

hoc enim est cauearum tempus, et cõflictuum, et certaminũ: illud verò coronarum, retributionum et præmiorum. Neyther he that dooth not washe away his sinnes in this present lyfe, shall finde any comfort afterwardes. For sayth he, who shall praise thee in hell, and for a good cause, for this is the tyme of scaffoldes, conflictes, wrastlinges, and battayles: but after this lyfe, is the tyme of recompences, crownes, and rewardes. Howe can it after this lyfe, be the tyme of crownes, and rewardes: if we be cast into a burning fire, which is nothing differing from the fire of hell? (saue onely that this euerlasting, and the other lasteth but for a tyme,) there to abide intollerable torments, tyll we be holpen out, by the prayers & oblations of the liuing, & especially of the Prestes, which must be hyred with good ready money to do it, else they will suffer vs to abide there, broyling & rosting vnto the worlds end: for, that ye may be sure, no peny, no *Pater noster*, of them. So that I lust here to make an exclamation with the Poet, *Quid non mortalia pectora cogit auri sacra fames?* Which we may englishe after

A good and kinde deuotion of popish preests.

after this sort: Oh of money, looue most execrable, that mans heart doost so sore enflame. Oh grædy desire of minde, so mysserable, ý wonders doost vndertake to thy great shame. Put away offering then, take away Purgatory: For when the Prælts can get no money, then can they not defend Purgatorie, giue them pence, then wyll they finde some shifte or other, to prowe that there is Purgatorie: yea, and that prowfe they will fetch out from the example of S. Augustine, who prayed for his mother, yea, and left in his writing ý there was Purgatory. But when S. August. sæketh to prowe ý same, he doth not bring one iote or syllable of the holy scriptures, for to prowe his sayings by: but groundeth him selfe only vpon the Forefathers. I will be so bolde to follow his owne cõsell, which he giueth in the Prologue of his thirde boke, De Trinitate. Saying: *Nolimeis scriptis, quasi canonicis inseruire, sed in illis quod non credebas, si forte inueneris, incunctater crede: in istis autem, quod certum non habebas nisi certum intellexeris, nolis firmiter credere*. I wyll not haue thee to be obedient vnto my writinges, as vnto the

the Canonicall scriptures: But if thou dooſt by chaunce finde in them (**meaning the Canonicall Scriptures**) the thing that thou diddeſt not beleeue, beleeue it immediatly, and without any delay: But in theſe (**vnderſtanding thereby his owne wordes,**) excepte thou dooſt vnderſtand, that thing to be moſt certayne, which thou diddeſt not recken to be certaine: I wyll not haue thee to beleeue it ſtedfaſtly.

What a goodly counſaile is this: hãre all men may ſee, that this holy Father, wyll not haue his writinges to be beleeued, except they be grounded vpon the ſcriptures and word of God. Shall then any man blame vs, if we doo as he himſelfe dooth bid and counſayle vs to doo? Dooth not all the world knowe, that this auncient Doctour, and moſt holie Father, dyd as a man, writte many thinges, which he was fayne to reuoke and call backe afterwards in his booke of Retractions? If he wrote any thing in defence of Purgatorie, he diſcouered the ſame afterwardes, as by his owne wordes it dyd appeare, in the. 18. Sermon, *De verbis Domini*: These be his

verie

ery words. *Duæ quippe habitationes sunt una in igne æterno, altera in regno æterno.* There be two habitations, or dwelling places, the one in the fire euerlasting, and the other in the kingdome, that neuer shall haue ende. Doth not this agree well with the doctrine of our sauiour Iesus Christ, that doth onely appoint vnto vs the bosome of Abraham, that is to say, the societie and fellowshippe of all them that died in the faith of Abraham, into the which, the poore Lazarus was caried by the handes of the Angels: and all fire, where the riche glutton was buried immediatly after his death? But I shall beare him yet speak more plainly. *Primum enim* (sayth he) *fides Catholicorum diuina autoritate regnum credit esse polorum: secundum gehennam, vbi omnis apostata, vel à Christi fide alienus suppliciis experitur: tertium prorsus ignoramus, neque esse in scripturis sanctis reperimus.* The faith of the Catholiques, dooth first and formost beleeue by the authoritie of the Scriptures, that there is the kingdome of heauen: Secondly, that there is hell fire, where all Apostataes, and all that be straungers from the faith of Christe,

doo suffer punishment: We are altogether ignorant of the thirde place, yea, we finde not in all the holy Scriptures, that there is any. Againe, in an other place he sayth: It should be best, that they should affyrme nothing, in a matter that is vncertaine, of that which the Scriptures doo not onely holde their peace: but also doo speake the contrarie. Yet the Papists (for lucres sake) are not ashamed to defend the opinion of Purgatorie, by the fansies and dreames of theyr owne heads. They that die in the faith of Christe, in true confession, and acknowledging theyr sinnes, and with a true repentant heart, haue no nede after they be once dead, e gone out of this vale of miserie, of the deuotion and good dedes of theyr frendes and kinsfolkes. If we should but follow the auctoritie and saying of the blessed Martyr Saint Cyprian. *Contra Demetr. Tractat. primo.* Who being a good whyle afore Saint Augustin, dooth write after this maner. *Tu nub ipso licet exitu, et vita temporalis occasu pro delictis roges Deum, qui verus et pius est, confessionem, et fidem eius agnitionis implores, venia confitenti datur, et credenti*

denti indulgentia salutaris, de diuina pie-
tate conceditur, et ad immortalitatem,
sub ipsa morte transitur : That is to
saye. Although thou dooſt at thy ve-
rie departing out of this worlde, and
going downe of this temporall lyfe,
praye vnto GOD for thy ſinnes, who
is the true and onely GOD, calling
vppon him, with a faithfull confeſsi-
on, and acknowledging bothe of thine
offences, and of his trueth: Thus con-
feſsing and beleeuing, thou haſt free
pardon and forgiueneſſe, giuen and
graunted vnto thee, of the meere good-
neſſe and mercie of God: And in the
verie death (euen as ſoone as thou haſt
giuen vp the ghoſt) thou paſſeſt vnto
immortalitie.

Here do ye ſee, that by this holy Pa-
uls saying: if we do vnfainedly confeſſe
& acknowledge our ſinnes, and repent
from the bottome of our hearts, we do
not onely obtaine a free pardon and for-
giueneſſe of our treſpaſſes and offences,
at the bounteous and mercifull hand of
God: but alſo in the verie death it ſelfe,
we paſſe vnto immortalitie, that is to
ſay, vnto a lyfe that neuer ſhall ende.

What shall then the deuotion, and good dædes of our frends and kinsfolkes profite vs? can they better our estate? But then we shall haue the fruition of the Godhead, and se God as he is: we shall be with Jesus Christ in glory, and haue the fellowship of all the blessed spirits, and soules of the righteous. What could be added to this felicitie, I beseech you? the Scriptures do in all pointes agree with this holy Martyr. First Ezechiel. Cha. 18. doth crie out, saying At what tyme soeuer a sinner dooth repent him of his sinnes, from the bottom of his heart: I wyll put all his wickednesse out of my remembrance, sayth the Lorde.

The Scriptures are sufficient testimonies for the faith of Christians.

Doth not the holy Ghost here, by the mouth of Ezechiel certifie vs, that if we wyll with a true repentaunt heart, flie vnto the mercie of God, and take holde therevpon (through faith in our saviour Jesu Christe) our sinnes shall not onely be forgiuen vs, but also cleane put out of remembrance, & vtterly forgotten? And wherefore I pray you? because of our owne merites and deseruings? because of the deuotion, and good dædes of our frends, & kinsfolkes, when we be dead

Heare

heare what the Lord him selfe sayth, by his Prophet Esai. Chapt. 43. I am euen he onely, that for mine owne sake, doo put away thine offences, and forget thy sinnes, so that I wyll neuer thinke vpon them. This verely ought to suffise vs: for, heere we haue a promise that God will do away our sinnes, so that he will neuer thinke vpon them. Not because of our owne merites and deseruings, nor yet because of the deuotion & good dedes of our frends and kinsfolkes, but onely for his owne sake, that is to say, of his meere goodnesse and mercie: Thus farre of this matter.

¶ Of the Supper of the Lord.

Hetherunto (good Christian people) of Purgatory haue I spoken, I haue disproued and confuted the opinion of our aduersaries, touching these paper walles, and painted fyres, by Scriptures and Doctours. Wherfore, if there be any heere that thinketh there is such a place, let him examine the places which I haue

brought forth in cõfutation of the same, and then I hope he shall be converted to the confession of the trueth, in saying there is no Purgatorie. Nowe I purpose, by the almightie power of Iehoua, to speake somewhat of the supper of the Lord. The Papistes kepe much sturre and great iangling, about this Sacrament: they say, that Christe is really, transubstantially, and bodily present, in the Sacrament of the Aulter. They can shewe vs but one place out of scriptures, to make an argument therby, for proose of transubstantiation: but the same place alleaged, maketh nothing for them, it is no demonstration. We will bring out of Scriptures, and out of Doctours, sundrie places that make for our purpose, in deniall of the reall presence of our Lord in the Sacrament.

The Papists haue but one argument to alleadge, and the same is against themselues.

First, I will declare the name of this Sacrament, which hath bene a great matter of burning and contention, amongst the Papistes, it is called *Missa*, the Masse, but of this worde, in all the Scriptures, I doo not finde one iote or sillable. For new thinges, new names are inuented, by the nouelty of the name.

Missam

*Missam remesse minimè vetustam tutò li-
cet conijcere:* We may safelie cõiecture the
Masse, to be a thing not of many yeeres
inuented. We Christians call this Sa-
crament, as S. Paul called it, in his first
Epist. Timo. 2. 1. Cor. 10. et. 11. *Mensam
Domini, cœnam Domini, corporis et sangui-
nis communicationem, aut certè panis frac-
tionem eucharistian.* Την αγιαν συναξιν,
Την αγαπην. *Aut cum Latinis sa-
crum conuiuium, sacrificium laudis, aut de-
nique Dominici corporis et sanguinis sacra-
mentum.* The Table of the Lord, the
Supper of the Lord, the communica-
ting of the body and blood, or the brea-
king of the bread, or thanksgiuing, or
holie feast, or the Sacrifice of prayse, or
the Sacrament of the body and blood of
Christ. August. *Ad Infantes*, As cyted
by Beda. 1. Cor. 10. *Quod videtis, panis et
vinũ est, et quod oculi vestri declarant ma-
nifestè.* That which you see, is bread and
wine, which also your eies declare mani-
festly. Origen. 7. Hom. upon Leuit. *Si li-
teraliter sequimini verba scripta: (nisi come-
deritis carnem filij hominis, non habetis
vitam in vobis) haec litera occidit.*
If literallie, yee followe the wordes

that be spoken: (except ye eate the flesh of the sonne of man, ye haue no lyfe in you) this letter kylleth. Who is so voide of reason, that wresting these speches vnto the carnall sence, the meaning whereof is to be construed figuratiuely: wyll imagine that we ought to be borne in our bodies a new, as Nicodemus dyd? or to be fedde with Christes flesh carnally, as the Caphernaites did? What better imagination do the vnlearned multytude conceaue in these dayes, of the doctrine of their transubstantiatiõ, deliuered vnto them by their great Doctours: For on this wise do these famous Christ-makers, enstruct their auditorie: that the bread which was bread, before the Consecration, altering the verie substaunce of bread, is no more bread nowe, but turned into flesh: and that this also must be beleaued without all question, that it is made the euerlasting sonne of God. What can be more absurde? and howe comes this chaunge to passe? I pray you forsothe, because Christe sayd: *Hoc est corpus meum*, This is my body. For this whole huge Chaos of confused transubstanti-

The monstrous dishonour doone vnto God by these wicked shauelings.

ſtantiation is accompliſhed with theſe fowre wordes, by theſe Chriſt-makers. What? and dyd the Lord pronounce no more wordes, but theſe foure only? what if he ſpake in the Hebrew tõgue, and expreſſed the whole action in two wordes onely, after the manner of that Nation (Zoth guphi) becauſe ỹ phraſe of the language, doth not for ỹ moſt part expreſſe the verbe (*Eſt*) but to admitte he ſpake fowre or fiue wordes: what dyd he adde therevnto no more beſides: or dyd he ſpeake nothing elſe, before or after, to make the verie meaning and purpoſe of his ſpeaches, more euident and manifeſt? And why do theſe fellowes omit the circumſtances, and not delyuer the whole ſcriptures withall? why do they chop of the one halfe of Chriſtes propoſition, and ſuppreſſe in ſilence the cheefe part, whereby the meaning of Chriſte might appeare more forcibly? For when Chriſte made mention of his body, that it might be eaten: he but giueth commaundement, to take bread firſt, and to eate, Take yee (ſayth Chriſte) and eate yee. And forthwith making mention of his body, dyd ſay: This is my body,

yet

yet not simplie neuertheleſſe, but annexed immediatlie, That is giuen and broken for you: To wit, to signifie vnto them, not the verie substaunce of his natural body simplie, but that the crucifying of his body, & the shedding of his blood, should become our fode. From hence bubleth out all the well-spring of error, that where our Lord and Sauiour had relation to the efficacie & power of his Passion: the same the Papists do apply to the onely substance of the flesh, as though we were to be fedde with the Note heere Passion of his flesh. But you will aske how the Passiō of Christ fedeth, which is not eaten? forsoth, in the same manner, as the death of Christ doth nourish vs, so doth his Passion fede vs, not after a fleshlie, but after a spirituall manner: not as it is chawed with the teeth, but as it is receyued into the heart. For then doth the death of Christe fede vs, when it refresheth vs: then is he eaten, when he is receyued by faith, and applied to our infirmities.

Pascasius. 43. Chapter. Therefore we must thus thinke with our selues, not how

howe much is chawed with the teeth: but howe much is receyued by faith and loue, &c. Ciprian *De cœna Domini.* Our abyding, and incorporation in him, is our eating and drinking, wherby we be vnited vnto Christe, and made his body, not by any corporall, but by a spirituall manner, passing into vs, &c. Christe sayde to his Disciples: Take yee, and eate yee, this is my body, which is giuen for you: doo this as often as yee shall doo it, in remembraunce of me. What can be more euident, then the interpretation of this Supper, if the circumstances of the wordes, be scanned accordingly? For who is so blinde that can not discerne the fruites of the Lordes death and Passion, to be plainlie signified heere? For as much as in the verie eating, him selfe sayth: This is my body, that is giuen to be slaine for you. Otherwise, why should he haue added with all, Giuen to be slaine: But that hée woulde set downe a plaine testimonie of the death of his body, rather then of any substaunce thereof, to the viewe of the Disciples:

As

A comfortable consolation, woorthy to be had in remembrance of all men.

As if he should say: The tyme is nowe at hand, wherein my body must be giuen to be slaine for you, not for any of mine offence at all, but for your sakes, which death of mine shall procure euerlasting lyfe for you. After lyke sort and manner as this bread, which I giue thus broken vnto you to eate, dooth passe into your bodies, and giue nourishment thereto: Take ye therefore this bread, this bread which I giue to euerie of you, and eate, and withall consider heerein, not the naturall bread which feedeth your bodies outwardly: But my body which beeing giuen to be slaine and crucified for you, shall inwardly, and much more effectually, refresh you to eternall lyfe. For my flesh, which I will giue to be slaine for the lyfe of the worlde, is meate in deede, and my blood is drinke in deede. *Iohn.6.* For your bodies doo not so much lyue, by the nourishment of meate and drink, as your soules be fedde within, with the crucifying of my flesh, and the shedding of my blood: without which you can haue no remission of sinnes, no ioyfull resurrection of your flesh, no parte or portion of eternall lyfe. Therefore, let this

this which is giuen you in this Supper, remaine for a perpetuall Sacrament, and remembraunce vnto you, of the body which I will heereafter giue for you. For I shall giue my body for you into the handes of enimies, the Sacrament wherof I doo heere giue into your handes.

Whereby you may perceyue (derely beloued) that here be two things giuen by Christe, one vnto vs, the other for vs: the first to be eaten, the last to be crucified: that one in the Supper, this other vpon the Crosse. Now, if you desire to know the substance of that which was giuen in the Supper, it was bread, and the Sacrament of his body: That which was giuen vpon the Crosse, was his body, and not a Sacrament. What then will you say? was not his body giuen at Supper? yes in deede, Christes body was giuen there to the Disciples, neither after a bodily and corporall maner, for that corporall body was giuen to the Iewes, not in the Supper, but on the Crosse, whereupon he gaue his body corporally, not to the Disciples, but for the Disciples. Therefore that which he gaue for his Disciples, was his body:

that

that which he gaue to his disciples, was the mistery of his body, yet was it one & the selfe same body, bothe ꝑ of the supper giuen to ꝑ Disciples: and ꝑ of the crosse giuē for his Disciples, but yet not after the same sort, nor yet at the same tyme. For vpon the Crosse it was giuen to be slaine corporally: in the supper it was giuē, not to be slaine, but to be eaten, not corporally, to be gnawne w̄ theyr teeth, but to fede vpō it in the bowels of their soules: namely, after a sacramētal kinde of receyuing, not corporall. Therfore, it is not denied that the Lordes body was bothe giuen & eaten in the Supper? but not the body only, but together with the body, the sacramēt annexed also withal: whereof the one apperteyneth to the feding of the bodies, the other, to the feding of the soules. That which is receyued within in the soule, is the very body, not the Sacrament of his body. For as much therfore as these two doo necessarily concurre together in the holy supper, that the one can not be seuered from the other: let vs so ioyne the one with the other, that we neyther seperate the body of Christe from the Sacrament, as the

Pa-

Papists do (which be so throughly wedded to the only substance of the body, as that they leaue therin no substãce at all of a Sacrament, but superficial and immateriall shadowes: I know not what, hanging in the ayre, which serue to no purpose:) Neyther let vs so segregate the Sacrament againe from the body, as that wee leaue nothing in the holy Supper but bare signes. Cyrill, *Anathe.* 11. Doost thou pronounce (sayth he) this our sacrament to be mans foode, and vrgest the mindes of the faithfull irreligiouslie, to grosse and carnall thoughts? and doost thou practise to discusse by mans sensuall reason, the thinges which are conceiued, by onely and most exquisite faith? Heare what Christe sayth in the interpretation of his owne spæche. *Caro* (sayth he) *non prodest quicquam, verba mea spiritus et vita sunt*: Flesh dooth not profit at all, my wordes be spirit and life. And doost thou cruell Cannibal, conceiue & eate nought else, but the flesh of Christe? nor wylt thou permitte one crumme so much of breade to remaine, because it is called the body of Christe? But how many things do we

heare

heare dayly, called by this or that name: when as in very deede they be not made the things wherof they beare ꝑ names. When the Disciple whome Jesus lowed, was by Christes owne mouth, called the sonne of Marie: yet wyll no man be so wytlesse, as to confesse him to be the naturall sonne of the Virgin Marie. So also the Prophet doth call flesshe, a flowre of the feelde: In the Gospel, Iohn Baptist, is called Elias: Peter is named a Rocke, so is he also called Sathan. To conclude, throughout all the discourse of the Scriptures, what is more frequented, then this vsuall phrase of speeche and that things be called by this or that name: wherein notwithstanding is no alteration of nature, but the propertis of things onely noted. *Theoderet.* Christ did signifie the signes which be seene, by calling them his body and blood, not chaunging the nature, but adding therevnto grace. Gelasius, *Contra Eutichetem. Substantia panis et vini non mutatur: et sine dubio imago et similitudo corporis et sanguinis celebratur in actionem mysteriorum.* The substaunce of the bread and wine, dooth not cease: and without doubt the

image

image and similitude of the body and blood, is celebrated to the action of the mysteries. *Ambrosius* De mysterijs. *Christus est in Sacramento, quia est corpus Christi: ideo non est corporalis, sed spirituales cibus, &c.* Christe is in that Sacrament, because it is the body of Christe: Therefore it is not corporal foode, but spirituall. **Wherupon the Apostle, speaking of the figure therof:** Because our fathers did eate the same spirituall foode **for ỹ body of Christ is spirituall: the body of Christ is the body of a diuine spirit.** *De con. Dis.* Ambros. *De sacra. Lib. 4. cap. 4.* Euen as thou hast receiued the likenesse of death: so dooste thou drinke the symilitude of blood. *Hesychius* in Leui. Lib. 1. Chap. 2. *Hunc comedimus cibum in recordationem passionis Christi.* We doo eate this meate, receyuing the memorie of his pasion. *Esai* **the. 25. Chap.** And in this mountaine shall the Lord of Hoastes, make vnto all people a feast of fatlinges, euen as a feast of meate and fined wines, and of fatte thinges full of marrowe, of wines fined and purified, &c. **Wherby it appeareth that his suffering, should be bread and foode for all people in the world, and as**

it were an euerlasting banquet, according to that prophetical promise. Esay the Prophet, the. 25 Chapter. And for that cause, least the remembrance of his pasion should waxe out of minde: he cõmaunded it to be done in the remembrance of him, and by the same memoriall to shewe the Lordes death, vntyll he come againe. Wherby may appeare without any difficulty, that the natural body is not eaten here, but the death of his body signified, and the remembrance thereof celebrated: Not the bread and wine turned into flesshe and blood, but a Sacrament of our redemption, to be instituted in bread and wine. Auguſt. *De consecrat. Dist. 2.* This is it, that the heauenly bread, which the flesh of Christe is called after his maner, the body of Christ when as in deede it is the Sacrament of Christes body. *Rabanus Maurus.* Lib. 1. Cap 31. *Sacramentum vna res est, efficacia sacramenti alia res est: Sacramentum conuertitur in nutrimentum corporis: virtute sacramenti honor æternæ vitæ obtinetur.* The Sacrament is one thing, the efficacie of the sacrament is an other thing: the Sacrament is turned into the nourishment

ment of the body, by the efficacie of the ſacrament, the honour of euerlaſting lyfe is obtayned. *Origen* vpon *Mathew* writeth after this manner. *Panis* (ſayth he) *qui verbo Dei ſanctificatur, quantum ad materiam et ſubſtantiam, in ventrem deſcendit, et in latrinam ejcitur*. The bread which is ſanctified by the worde of God, touching the matter and ſubſtance thereof, goeth downe into the belly, and is throwne out into the draught, &c. If that be bread which after ſanctification goeth downe into the belly, according to the teſtimony of Origen: with what face will the Papiſtes, deny it to be bread? Againe, on the other ſide, if according to the Papiſtes opinion, there remayne no crum of ſubſtance at all: Whereof then ſhall that be a ſubſtance, which Origen doth aſcribe to the bread? To the ſame effect may Auguſtine, *De conſecra. Diſti. 2.* be produced a witneſſe of antiquitie, not to be reiected. The heauenly bread (ſayth he) which is the fleſhe of Chriſt, is after this manner called the body of Chriſte, beeing in verie deede the Sacrament of Chriſtes body, &c.

If it be a sacrament of the body, how is it the verie body? againe, if because it is called the body of Christe, it be therfore Christes flesh: what should let, but that by the same argumēt, Peter should be Sathan, because he is called Sathan? Moreouer, if the nature of Sacramēts be such as to be called by the name of the thinges which they signifie: Let the Papistes take away the substaunce of bread, what shall be left in the Accidentarie fourmes, that may eyther supplie the name of a body, or represent the lykenesse of a body in any respect?

You haue heard (good Christiā people) bothe by the Scriptures and Doctours, that there is no transubstantiation in the Sacrament of the Lordes Supper. Who is therefore of so peruerse minde, that wyll not persuade him selfe, that these wordes, Take ye, eate ye: This is my body, to be a Sacramentall speach, and mysticall: and ought to be expounded sumbolically, and according to the meaning? For the bread is a Sacramēt, signe, or pledge of the body of Christe. I haue giuen you to understand, by many euident reasons, that these words of our

Lord,

Lord, This is my body: ought not to be taken according to the grosse lytterall sence: but to be expounded mystically or sacramentally, for the bread remaineth in his substance, & is not chaunged into the substance of the body of Christe. In lyke manner the naturall body of Jesus Christe (the which being giuen once for vs, & rayled from death, is ascended into heauen,) is not hyd nor inclosed vnder the kinde or forme of bread. For the Angels of God speaking of this body, beare witnesse thereof. and saye. Acts. 1. 11. *Hic Iesus, qui assumptus est à vobis in cœlum, sic veniet quemadmodū vidistis euntem in cœlum.* This same Iesus which is taken vp from you into heauen, shal so come, euen as you haue seene him goe into heauen. In like manner S. Peter sayth. Act. 3. 21. *Quem oportet quidem cœlum accipere vsque in tempora restitutionis omnium, qua loquutus est Deus per os omnium sanctorum suorum, à seculo Prophetarum.* The heauen must receyue Iesus Christe, vntyll the tyme that all thinges be restored, which God hath spoken by the mouth of his holy ones, from the tyme of the Prophetes. Saint Paule sayth also: Iesus

Christe after he hath offered one sacrifice for sinnes, is set downe for euer on the right hande of God, from hencefoorth, tarying tyll his foes be made his footestoole. Wherfore, we reade that Saint Augustine, writing to Dardanus, sayde rightlie, and according to the Scriptures: Christe as he is God, is all whollie present in euerie place, but, according to the measure and propertie of a true body, he hath his place, in some one place of heauen, hee hath giuen immortallitie to his body (in the glorification thereof.) After this forme he is not to be thought to be diffused, and spread abroade euerie where.

Wherefore we must take good hede, that we do not so affyrme the diuinitie of the man (Christe) that we take away the trueth of (His) body. For one personne, is God and man, and one Christe Jesus, is bothe two, being euerie where, in that he is God: but being in heauen, in that he is man. Yea, and this author hath left in his bookes, these thinges and many other like, bothe Catholique, and according to the true sence of the Scripture, agreable

to

to this matter. Moreouer, the Catholique veritie suffereth vs not to faine, that Christe hath two bodies. But if you take the wordes of the letter, This is my body: without the blessed body of the Lord, beeing set at the Table with his Disciples, gaue vnto them also, I knowe not what other body: for he could not giue him selfe with his owne handes, vnto his Disciples. Therefore with his true body, and with his handes, he deliuered vnto his Disciples, the Sacrament of his onely body. Hereupon it followeth, that the faithfull, acknowledging the Sacrament & mysterie, receiue with theyr mouth, ỹ sacramentall bread of his body: But with the mouth of the spirite, they eate the very body of the Lord. He is eaten in such sort, as he may be eaten, that is to say, spiritually by faith: As the Lord himselfe expoundeth this mysterie vnto vs at large in Saint Iohn the.6. Chapter. Neyther haue the purest Doctours of the auncient Church, taught any otherwise: yea, and this place may well be applied to the wordes of the Lord.

For seing our Lord hath but one true body, the which he gaue vp to death for vs, and that in these two places, he speaketh of this selfe same body: it seemeth vnto me, that this place of S. Mathewe, ought to be expouded by that of S. Iohn. Seeing that Saint Augustin, also in his third booke of the agreement of the Euangelists, supposeth that S. Iohn speaketh not of the institution of the Supper of the Lord: because in an other place he had set forth this matter at large. All the auncient Doctors of ỹ Church, speaking of the Supper, allegeth the Supper of the Lord. Yet for all that, the Papistes euer haue in their mouthes transubstantiation, transubstantiation. Though bothe Scriptures & Doctours writte against them, yet so voyde they are, of reason and common sence, and so blockish, that they will embrace signes, for things them selues: they turne that to worshipping & kneeling, which was deliuered for a thankfull remembrance by most agreeable application. The Deuill hath so bewitched their sences and vnderstanding, that they thinke, they make God euery day, as oft as they list, ba-

Neither the sufficiencie of the scriptures, nor authoritie of the Doctours can satisfie the Papists.

hauing none authority of the moſt holy Scriptures, but as they wreſt it, and wring it, for their owne purpoſes. For Ieſus Chriſt at his laſt ſupper, took bread and gaue thankes, and brake it, and gaue it to his Diſciples, and ſayde: Take, eate, this is my body: and he lykewiſe tooke the cuppe, and gaue thankes, and gaue it them, ſaying: drinke ye all hereof, this is my blood in the new Teſtament, which ſhall be ſhed for many, for the remiſsion of ſinnes. Nowe, to come to our purpoſe, where as theſe heretiques do take authoritie vpon theſe wordes. *Hoc eſt corpus meum*: that is to ſay, This is my body. Doth it followe by the holy ſcripture, that they, when they haue ſayde theſe wordes ouer the bread: ſhould create a materiall fleſhe, blod and raynes, yea, the ſelfe ſame body, that the bleſſed Virgin Marie dyd beare, as theſe Antichriſtes ſay they do? I do aunſwer no, for when Chriſte brake the bread, and bleſſed it: doth it follow, that it was his body in deede, and there remayned no more bread? if they ſay no, I aunſwere, no more do we: if they ſay yea, then if the bread was not crucified, he gaue it

The horrible blaſphemie of the Papiſts vſed in their Maſſe.

to

to his Disciples, and they dyd eate: dyd they eate Christes body, or no? I meane the verie selfe same body, that was borne of the Virgin Marie, if they say, no: I aunswer, no more do we: if they say yea, then dyed he not for vs: For could he dye for vs, when they had eaten him vp afore?

But this worde, Τοῦτό ἐστι τὸ σῶμά, This is my body, was the swetest worde that they could finde out in all the whole Testament, to bleare mennes eyes with a false God, compelling the people to knéele on their knées, and holde vp their handes, which is abhominable, and detestable Idolatrie. But héere is a question to be demaunded of these holy Gentlemen, the God-makers: When they make God, whether do they make him at once or twise? for they say, that there remaineth no materiall bread after the Consecration, but the very naturall body, that Marie bare, flesh, blood, & bone: Then doth it follow, that wée worshippe a false God in the Challice: Then wyll they saye, as shameles Juglers, that they Consecrate the verie selfe same substãce in the wine

The poore people much deceyued by the Papists.

Note heere

wine, that they dw in the bread, wherby it dooth appeare manifestly, that they are false Sacrilegers, robbers, and theeues of the laye people. For at Easter they giue them a drie body, without blood, for they giue them Wine vnconsecrated, this is once true and manifest: But what wyll these Juglers saye? forsothe, euen as they haue all sayde, Heretique, Heretique, blearing mennes eyes with such blinde examples, saying: euen as there is a glasse, and many faces seene in the glasse, so lykewise maye a multytude of people receyue the substance at one worde. Ah false fayning Juglers. As there be many faces, (sayth hee) in the glasse, and but one glasse: I aunswere, if I see my selfe in the glasse, doth it followe that I haue a face styll in the glasse, & an other in my head? Or when a great number of faces, is seene in one glasse, it is not to note that there are faces in deede, but the similytude of faces: no more is it to be beleeued, that this bread is Christes body that Marie bare, for that it dooth but represent the body. Note heere

I would demaund this question, that I speaking the worde with reuerence, might not make Christes body, as well as they? they will say no: wherfore? because we are not elect & chosen: let them aunswere to this question. Doth the worde giue vertue to election, or election to the worde? If they say, that election giueth vertue to the worde, then I proue the worde of no vertue, & then how can they make God with it? If they say, that the worde giueth vertue to the election: then I proue that all men, speaking the worde, may doo as much in it, as they: For the worde taketh effect in the spirite, and not in the flesshe: this argument can not be denied, except they make God partiall. If a man should demaund by what auctoritie they make God? they wyll say by the worde.

Note heere for an especiall enstruction.

Oh crafty Juglers, God made the world in sire dayes, and rested the seuenth day: he made Sunne, Moone and starres: he made byrds, beasts, fowles, and fishes, wormes, serpentes, stones, hearbes, grasse, and euerie thing of the same worde: and the same words wherwith he made all these thinges, doo remayne

mayne ſtyll in the Bible, and yet can it not make any of theſe thinges, neyther breade, nor beaſt, nor nothing elſe, yet wyll they make the maker of all theſe thinges, and ſay, they doo it by the worde, & the worde that made all theſe thinges, remaineth ſtill in the Bible, and yet can they not doo it.

Nowe to come to the worde that they make God of, that is, *Hoc eſt corpus meum*, which is to ſay: This is my body. In the. 10. of Iohn, Chriſte ſayth, I am the doore: dooth it followe that hée is a doore in déede? no forſooth, I thinke but that a doore is to harde for any man to eate, they would haue také that place of ſcripture to make God: Though Chriſt ſayd, I am the doore, it followeth not, that he was a materiall doore: no more dooth it followe, that this worde, *Hoc eſt corpus meum*, This is my body: to be the ſame body, that Marie the Virgin bare, it is plaine errour, and they are folwly deceyued. For when Chriſte ſayd, This is my body, that ſhall be giuen for you: the worde that he ſpake was him ſelfe, & him ſelfe was the worde, or elſe muſt the breade haue béene crucified, as is afore.

Behold the blinde peruerſenes of the Papiſts.

Note heere

forelayde, which I will prowe by the manifest scriptures. Christ sayth in the 6. of *Iohn*. I am the liuing bread that came from heauen, your fathers did eate Manna in the desert and are dead, but I am the bread of lyfe. So it demonstrateth that Christe was the bread, which was giuen for vs: but these Gentlemen say, that the bread is he. Nowe here is all ỹ cõtrouersie betweene the Christiãs and the Papists. Christ sayth, that he is the bread that was giuen for vs, or broken for vs: the Papists say that the bread is Christ, now, how can we agree? for we say, as Christ saith, that he is the bread, & these Gẽtlemen say, that the bread is he: marke well ỹ scriptures. Paul sayth: That which I receyued of God, I gaue vnto you. Let them answer me to this, dyd Paul receiue any thing of the Lord, but his word? for Paul was not with the Lord at the supper, to receiue any other thing. O blinde creatures, they wot not what they do, will they haue the blood of wytnesse of Iesus Christe required at their hãds still? O good christian brethr̃, for the tender mercy of our Lord & sauiour Iesus Christ, beleeue not this erronious doctrine of the Papistes, worship

Note here

not

not a wheaten God. In the.6. Chap. of Iohn, Christ sayth: The bread which I will giue you, is my flesshe, which I will giue for the life of the world. Here you may perceyue that the bread that Christ gaue vs, was his flesshe, Ergo, his flesshe was ỹ bread that he brake, which was him selfe, & him selfe was the word, and his word was his body, which was giuẽ for the life of the world. Then strooe the Iewes among them selues, & sayd: How can this fellow giue vs his flesh to eate? for they toke it carnally, as our cleane fingred Gētlemen, do now a daies, thinking ỹ they should haue eaten him vp, flesh blood & bones? Iesus sayd vnto thẽ, *Iohn.6.* Except ye eate the flesshe of the sonne of man, ye haue no life in you, for whosoeuer eateth my flesh, & drinketh my blood, hath euerlasting lyfe. And I shall raise him vp at the last day, for my flesh is very meat, and my blood hath euerlasting life, and I shall raise him vp at the last day, for my flesh is very meat, and my blood is very drinke: and whosoeuer eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, abydeth in me, and I in him.

Nowe I tolde you afore, that Christe was

was the bread that was giuen for vs: and euen as the materiall bread feedeth the body, so this liuely bread feedeth the soule. And Christe speaketh here of his flesh and blood, which was offered in sacrifice, for our saluation, and our redemption, as Iohn sayth, Chap. 1. 8. The worde became flesh, and we see the glorie of it, as the onely begotten sonne of the Father: and who so dooth beleeue this, dooth eate Christes flesh, and drinketh his blood: But not as these Papists do, for they say that they crash him with their teeth carnally, the same body that Mary bare, but they which receiue him in a Christian Cõmunion, receiue him by faith. For Christe sayd (*Hoc facite in meam cõmemorationem*) Doo this in remembraunce of me. And whosoeuer beleeueth, that this body was done vpon the Crosse for his saluation, and that the shedding of his blood, is for the remissiõ of his sinnes, taken in the remembrance of Christes death: eateth Christes body, and drinketh his blood spiritually. God graũt we may doo so, for our own soules health. Amen. Thus much briefly, touching the supper of the Lord.

Oh abhominable blasphemy.

Of

Against mennes Merites *and righteousnesse.*

Greate controuersie and disputation there is betweene the Papists and vs Christians, touching mennes merites & righteousnesse. The Papists say that they are iustified by good woorkes and not by faith. We say that *Sola fides iustificat omnes*: Faith alone iustifieth all men. It is marueilous (dearely beloued) to see with what rashnes and boldnesse iustification of woorkes is commonly debated: yea, and it is to be seene, how none doe more boldly or with fuller mouthes (as the saying is) prate of the righteousnesse of woorkes, then they that are monstrously sicke of open outward diseases, or be redy to burst with inward vices: That commeth to passe, because they thinke not vpon the righteousnes of God, wherof (if they had neuer so little feeling) they would neuer make so great a mockerie of it. And truely it is out of measure lightly regarded, whē it is not acknowledged to be such and so perfect, that nothing be imputed vnto it, but euery way whole &

absolute, and defiled with no vncleanneſſe, ſuch as neuer was and neuer ſhal be able to be found in man.

It is in deede eaſie and readie for euery man in ſchooles to talke vainlie vpon the worthineſſe of woorkes to iuſtifie men, but when they come into the ſight of God, ſuch dalliances muſt auoyd, becauſe there is earneſt doing vſed, and no trifling ſtrife aboute wordes. To this, to this I ſay, we muſt applie our minde, if we will profitably enquire of true righteouſneſſe, how we may anſwere the heauenly Iudge when he calleth vs to account. Let vs thinke him to be a Iudge, not ſuch a one as our own vnderſtandinges do of themſelues imagine: but ſuch a one as he is paynted out in the Scripture, with whoſe brightnes ẏ ſtars ſhalbe darckned, by whoſe ſtrength the hils doe melt away, by whoſe wrath the earth is ſhaken, by whoſe wiſdome the wiſe are takē in their ſuttletie, by whoſe pureneſſe all thinges are prooued vnpure, whoſe righteouſnes the angels are not able to beare, which maketh the innocent not innocent, whoſe vengeance when it is once kindled, pearceth to the bottome of hell. If he, I ſay, ſit to examine mens doinges, who

ſhall ap-

peare assured before his throane? Who shal dwell with a deuouring fire, saith the prophet Esaie 3. 34. Who shall abide with continuall burninges? he that walketh in righteousnes and speaketh trueth, &c. But let such a one come forth whatsoeuer he be, but that answere maketh that none commeth forth, for this terrible saying soundeth to the contrary: Lord if thou marke our iniquities, Lord, who shall abide it? Truely all must needes immediately perish, as it is written in another place: Shal mā be iustified if he be cōpared with god? or shall he be purer then his maker? Beholde, they that serue him are not faithful, & he hath found peruersenes in his Angels. How much more shall they that dwell in houses of clay, & that haue an earthly foundation, be consumed with mothes? They shalbe cut down from the morning to the euening. Behold, among his Saintes there is none faithfull, and the heauēs are not cleane in his sight. Iob. 15. 15. Howe much more is man abhominable and vnprofitable, which drinketh iniquitie as water?

I graunt in deed that in the book of Iob, is mention made of a righteousnesse that is higher then the keeping of the Law, and it is good to vnderstand this distinctiō, because although a man did satisfie the Law: yet hee

could not so stand to the triall of that righteousnesse that passeth all senses. Therfore although Iob bee cleane in his owne conscience, yet hee is amazed and not able to speake, because he seeth that the very Angelike holinesse cannot appease GOD, if hee exactly way their woorkes. But I therefore will at this time ouerpasse that righteousnesse which I haue spoken of, because it is incomprehensible: but onely this I say, that if our life bee examined by the rule of the written law, wee are more then senceless, if so many curses wherewith the Lord hath willed vs to be awaked do not torment vs with horrible feare, and among other this general curse, Cursed is euerie one that doth not abide in all the thinges that are written in the booke. Finally all this discourse shalbe but vnsauery and colde, vnlesse euery man peele himselfe guiltie before the heauenly Iudge, and willingly throwe downe and abace himselfe, beeing carefull howe hee may bee acquited to this, to this I say, we shoulde haue lifted vp our eyes to learne rather to tremble for feare, then vainely to reioyce. Indeed, easie it is, so long as the comparison extendeth no further then men, for euery man to thinke himselfe

selfe to haue somewhat, which other ought not to despise, but whē we rise vp to haue respect vnto God: then suddenly that confidēce falleth to the ground & cōmeth to naught, & in the same case altogether is our soule in respect of God: as mans bodie is in respect of the heauen. For the sight of the eye, so long as it continueth in viewing thinges that bee neere vnto it, doeth shewe of what pearcing force it is, but if it be once directed vp to the sunne, thē being daseled and dulled with the too great brightnesse thereof, it feeleth no lesse feeblenes of it selfe in beholding of the same, then it receiued strength in beholding inferior things. Therfore let vs not deceiue our selues with vayne cōfidēce, although we coūt our selues either equal or superior to other men: but ỹ is nothing to God, by whose will this knowledge is to be tried. But if our wilones cānot be tamed with these admonitions, he will answeare to vs as hee saide to the Phariſies in Luke 16.15. You bee they that iustifie your selues before men: but that which is high to men is abhominable to God. Now goe thy way and prouidly boast of thy righteousnes amōg men, while God frō heauen abhorreth it, but what say the seruāts of of God ỹ are truely instructed wᵗ his spirite?

Enter not into iudgement with thy seruaunt, because euery liuing man shall not be iustified in thy sight. Another saith, Although in somewhat diuers meaning, man cannot be righteous with God, if he wil contende with him, hee shall not bee able to aunsweare one for a thousande. Here we now plainly perceiue what is the righteousnes of God, euen such as can be satisfied with no woorkes of men, to whom when hee examineth vs of a thousand offences, we cannot purge our selues of one. Such a righteousnesse had the same instrument of God Paule conceiued, when he professed that he knew himselfe giltie in nothing, but that he was not therby iustified. And not only such examples are in the holie Scriptures, but also all godly wryters doe shew that they were alway of this mind. So Augustine *ad Bonifacium Lib. 3. Cap. 5*, sayeth: Al the godly that grone vnder this burthē of corruptible flesh, and in this weakenesse of life, haue this only hope, that we haue one Mediatour, Iesus Christ the righteous, and hee is the appeasement of our sinnes. Why, saith he, if this be their onely hope: where is the confidence of woorkes? For when he calleth it only, he leaueth none other.

And Bernard super Cant. 6, And in deed where

where is safe and stedfast rest and assuredne for the weake: but in the woundes of the sauiour? And so much the surer I dwell therein, as he is mightier to saue. The world rageth, the body burdeneth, the deuill lyeth in wayte: I fall not, because I am buylded vpon the sure rock, I haue sinned a greeuous sinne, my conscience is troubled, but it shall not bee ouer troubled, because I shall remember the woundes of the Lord. And thereupon afterwardes he concludeth: Therefore my merite, is the Lords taking of mercie, I am not vtterly without merit, so long as he is not vtterly without mercy. But if the mercies of the Lord be many, then I also haue as many merites. Shal I sing mine owne righteousnes? for that is also my righteousnes, for he is made vnto me righteousnesse of God.

Againe in another place, S. Augustine in Psal. *Qui habitat.* Ser. 15. This is the whole merite of man, if he put his whole hope in him that saueth whole man. Likewise wher retaining Peace to him selfe he leaueth the glorie to God. To thee (sayth he) let glorie remain vndiminished: it shal be wel with me if I haue peace. I forsweare glorie altogether, least if I wrongfully take vpon me that which is not mine owne: I lose also that which is offred me.

And more plainly in another place he saith, *in Cant. ser. 13.* Why should the Church be careful of merits, which hath a surer and safer way to glory vpon the purpose of God? So there is no cause why thou shouldest aske by what merits we hope for good things, specially whē thou hearest in the prophet, I wil do it, not for your sakes, but for mine owne sake, saith the Lord. It sufficeth for merites, to know that merites suffice not. But as it sufficeth of merite not to presume of merite, so to be without merits, sufficeth to iudgement. Whereas he freely vseth this word merites for goood workes, we must therein bear with the custome, but in the end his purpose was to make hipocrites afrayd, that wildly range with licentiousnesse of sinning againste the grace of God, as afterward hee expoundeth himselfe saying, Happie is the Church that neither wanteth merites without presumptiō, nor presumption without merites. It hath whereupon to presume, but not merites. It hath merites, but to deserue, not to presume, therfore it presumeth so much the more boldly, because it presumeth not, hauing large matter to glorie vpō, euen the many mercies of the Lord.

This is the trueth, the exercysed consci-

ences,

ences perceiued this to be the onely sanctuarie of safety, wherein they may safelye rest themselues when they haue to doe with the iudgement of God. For if the starres that seemed most bright in the night season, doe loose their brightnes with light of the Sun, what, thinke we, shal become euen of the rarest innocencie of man, when it shal be compared with the pureneſſe of God? For that shalbe a most seuere examination, that shall pearce into the most hidden thoughtes of the heart. And (as Paule sayth) Shall reueale the secrets of darcknes, & disclose the hidden things of the heart, which shall compell the lurking and vnwilling conscience to vtter all thinges that now are fallen out of remembrance.

The Deuill our accuser, will preſſe vs, which is prime to all the wicked deedes that he hath moued vs to doe. There, the outwarde pompous shewes of good workes, (which now only are esteemed) shal nothing profite vs. Onely the pureneſſe of will shall be required. Wherefore the hipocriſie (not onely whereby euery man knowing him selfe guilie beefore God, desireth to boaſte him selfe before men) but

also

also wherewith euery man deceiueth himselfe before God (as we bee all inclined to flatter our selues) shal fal down confounded, howsoeuer it now be proud with more than dronken boldnesse, they that bende not their wit to such a sight, may in deede for a shorte time, sweetly and pleasantly frame a righteousnes to themselues, but it is such a righteousnes as shalbe by and by shaken away frō them at the iudgement of God: Like as great riches heaped vp in a dreame, vanish away from men when they wake. But they ꝑ shal ernestly, as it were in the sight of god, enquire of the true rule of righteousnes shall certainly finde that al the woorkes of men, if they be iudged by their own worthines, are nothing but defilinges and filthines: That which among the common people is accoũted righteousnes, is before God meere wickednes: that which is iudged puritie, is vncleannesse: that which is reckoned glory, is but shame.

From this beholding of the perfection of God, let it not greue vs to descend to look vpon our selues, without flatterie or blinde affection of loue, for it is no marueil if wee be all so blinde in this behalfe, forsomuch as none doth beware of the pestilent tendernes

towards

towardes him selfe, which (as the scripture tryeth out) Naturally sticketh fast in vs all. To euery man (saith Solomon, Prouerb. chap. 21. vers. 2. & 16. His own way is right in his owne eyes. Againe, All the wayes of man seeme cleane in his own eyes. But what? is he acquited by his blindnesse? no: But (as hee further saieth in the same place) the Lorde wayeth the hearts, that is to say, while man flattereth him selfe by reason of the outwarde visor of righteousnesse that hee beareth in resemblance: In the meane time the Lord with his ballance examineth the hidden vncleannes of the heart.

Therefore seeing we see nothing profite with such flatterers, let vs not wilfully mock our selues to our own destruction. But that we may traine our selues rightly, wee must necessarily call backe our conscience to the iudgement seate of God. For we doe altogether neede his light to disclose the secrete foldinges of our peruersnesse, which otherwise lie too deeply hidden. For then, and neuer till then, wee shall cleerely perceiue what is meant hereby, that man being rottennesse, and a worme, abhominable & vaine, which drinketh wickednes as water, is far from being iustified before God. For who

should make that cleane that is conceiued of vncleane seede? not one man. Then shall we also finde that by experience, which Iob sayd of him selfe, chapter 19. *Si iustificare me voluero, os meum condemnabit me: si innocentem ostendero, prauum me comprobabit.* If I will goe about to shew my selfe innocent, my own mouth shall condemne me: If I wil shew my selfe righteous, it wil proone me wicked. For that is not meant of one age onely, but of all ages, which the Prophet in old time, of Israel, that all went astray like sheepe, that euery one turned aside to his owne way. For he there comprehendeth all them, to whom the grace of redemption should come, and the rigorousnesse of this examination ought to proceede so far, till it subdue vs, so that we be fully throwen downe with all, and by that meane, prepare vs to receiue the grace of Christ. For he is deceiued that thinketh himselfe able to receiue the enioying of this grace, vntill he haue first throwen downe all hautinesse of minde.

This is a knowen saying, that God confoundeth the proud, and geueth grace to the humble. O, I would to God that mē would no longer trust to their owne righteousnesse, but gene place to the mercie of God, that they

they doe not presumptuously aduaunce themselues, nor reioyce fullye triumphe ouer others, but vnfaynedly submitting theselues before God, acknowleging their own miserie and nedinesse, at last yealde to the trueth, and say with vs, and with S. Paule, οὐκ ἔστι δίκαιος οὐδὲ εἷς. *Non est iustus, ne vnus quidē*: there is none righteous, no not one. οὐκ ἔστι ποιῶν χρηστότητα, οὐκ ἔστιν ἕως ἑνός: There is none that doth good, no not one. *Ex operibus Legis non iustificabitur omnis caro in conspectu eius*. By the workes of the Law shall no flesh be iustified in his sight.

Againe to the Rom. 4. 2. εἰ γὰρ Αβραὰμ ἐξ ἔργων ἐδικαιώθη, ἔχει καύχημα, ἀλλα οὐ πρὸς τὸν θεόν. If Abrahamwere iustified by workes, hee hath wherein to reioyce, but not with God.

Agayne. τὰ γὰρ ὀψώνια τῆς ἁμαρτίας, θάνατος. τὸ δὲ χάρισμα τοῦ θεοῦ, ζωὴ αἰώνιος ἐν χριστῷ ἰησοῦ τῷ κυρίῳ ἡμῶν. The wayes of sinne is death: but the gifte of God is eternall life through Iesus Christ our Lord.

Againe, to the Rom. 10. 3. ἀγνοοῦντες γὰρ τὴν τοῦ θεοῦ δικαιοσύνην, καὶ τὴν ἰδίαν δικαιοσύνην ζητοῦντες, στῆσαι τῇ δικαιοσύνῃ τοῦ θεοῦ οὐχ ὑπετάγησαν. They beeinge ignoraunte of the Rightcousnesse of God, and

and going about to stablish their own righte-ousnes, haue not submitted themselues to the righteousnesse of God. Againe in the 11. chap. 5. ver. οὕτως οὖν καὶ ἐν τῷ νῦν καιρῷ λεῖμμα κατ' ἐκλογὴν χάριτος γέγονεν· εἰ δὲ χάριτι, οὐκέτι ἐξ ἔργων· ἐπεὶ ἡ χάρις οὐκέτι γίνεται χάρις. εἰ δὲ ἐξ ἔργων οὐκέτι ἐστὶ χάρις· ἐπεὶ τὸ ἔργον οὐκέτι ἐστὶν ἔργον.

Euen then, so at this present time is there a remnant through the election of grace, and if it be of grace, it is now no more of woorkes, or els were grace no more grace. But if it be of works, it is no more grace, or els were workes no more woorkes. καὶ τίς προέδωκεν αὐτῷ, καὶ ἀνταποδοθήσεται αὐτῷ, ὅτι ἐξ αὐτοῦ καὶ δι' αὐτοῦ καὶ εἰς αὐτὸν τὰ πάντα· αὐτῷ ἡ δόξα εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας ἀμήν, who hath geuē to him first, & he shalbe recompenced, for of him, and through him, & for him, are all thinges, To him be glorie for euer. Amen.

Againe to the 2. 1. Epist. and 4. chap. 4. ver. *Nullius omnino rei mihi conscius sum, sed non per hoc iustificatus sum, caeterum qui me iudicat Dominus est.* I know nothing by my selfe, yet I am not therby iustified, but he that iudgeth me is the Lord. S. Paule in his 2. Chapter to the Ephesians 8. verse, *Gratia enim estis saluati per fidem, idque non ex vobis, Dei donum est.* By grace are ye sa-

ued

ued through faith, and that not of your selues, it is the gifte of God, not workes, least any mã should boast him selfe. 2. Tim. 1. 9. *Qui saluos fecit nos, & vocauit vocatione sancta, non secundum opera nostra, sed secundum suum propositum, & gratiam, quæ data quidem est per Christum Iesum ante tempora æterna.* Who hath saued vs, and called vs with an holy calling, not according to our workes, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was geuen to vs through Iesus Christ, before the world was. Titus. 3. 5. *Non ex operibus quæ sunt in iustitia, quæ faciebamus nos, sed secundum suam misericordiam saluos nos fecit per lauacrum regenerationis, ac renouationis Spiritus sancti.* That is, Not by the workes of righteousnes which wee had done, but according to his mercie, he saued vs, by the washing of the new birth, and the renewing of the holy Ghost, that we being iustified by his grace, should be made heires according to the hope of eternall life. 1. Iohn. 4. 10. ἐν τούτῳ ἐστὶν ἀγάπη οὐχ ὅτι ἡμεῖς ἠγαπήκαμεν τὸν θεὸν ἀλλ' ὅτι αὐτὸς ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς καὶ ἀπέστειλε τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἱλασμὸν περὶ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν.

Herein is loue, not that we loued God, but that he loued vs, and sent his Sonne to bee a recon-

reconciliation for our sins. In ỳ 9. ver. We loue him because he loued vs first. To the Reue. 21.6. ἐγω τῶ διψῶντι δώσω ἐκ τῆς πηγῆς τοῦ ὑδατος τῆς ζωῆς δωρεαν. I will geeue to him that is a thirst, of the wel of the water of life, freely,

Many other places of Scripture could I alleadge against mennes merites & righteousnesse: but these already alleadged, may suffise any Christian man. Now briefly will I see what the Doctors speake against this matter of Iustification by good workes. Origene in his 4. booke, and 4. Chap. I doe scarcely beleeue that there can be any woorke that may of duetie require a reward,

Basill vpon the Psalme 32. Hee that trusteth not in his owne good deedes, nor hopeth to be iustified by his woorkes, hath the onely hope of his saluation in the mercies of God.

Hilarie vpon the 118. Psalme. If wee taste once, we thinke we haue satisfied. If out of the barnes of our houshold stoare, we geeue somewhat to the poore, we beleeue that wee haue fulfilled the measure of righteousnesse: But the Prophet hopeth all of God, and trusteth all of his mercie.

Hierome vpon the 64. Chapter of Esay,

If wee

If we beholde our owne merites, we muſt be driuen to deſperation. Vpon the. 3. Cha. to the *Epheſians*. In Chriſte Ieſu our Lord, in whome we haue boldneſſe and lyberty, to come and truſt, and affiance by the faith of him, not through our righteouſnes, but through him, in whoſe name our ſinnes be forgiuen. In his firſt booke againſt the *Pellagians*. Our ryghteouſneſſe dooth not conſiſt of our merites, but of the grace and mercy of God. *Auguſtin* in his. 50. Booke of Homyles. 14 Hom. Dyd not he giue, that thou mighteſt fight a good fight? if he him ſelfe dyd not giue, what was it that thou ſayſt? In an other place, I laboured more then all they: yet not I, but the grace of God within me, behold thou ſayſt, I haue ended my courſe, dyd he not alſo giue vnto thee that thou ſhouldeſt finiſh thy courſe? If he gaue not vnto thee, that thou ſhouldeſt finiſh thy courſe: what is it, that thou ſayſt? In an other place, It lyeth not in the willer, nor in the runner, but in God that ſheweth mercy. I haue kept the faith: I acknowledge and allowe it. I confeſſe and grant, that thou haſt kept the faith: but except the Lord dooth keepe the Citty: he watcheth in vaine, that dooth keepe it. Pardon me O Apoſtle, I know nothing of

thine owne, but euyll. Pardon vs O Apostle, we say so, because thou hast taught vs. Therefore when he crowneth thy merites, he crowneth nothing, but his owne gyfts. Thus you haue heard (derely beloued) what both scriptures and Doctors write against mens merites, and righteousnesse: Wherefore I pray you, in the name of Christe, to embrace the trueth.

THus was ỳ Sermon ended at Roome in the yere of our Lord. 1578. in the moneth of May: which Sermõ is registred only for this cause, ỳ if I should reuolt frõ Papistry, mine own writing which is registred should cõdemne me to the fire, for pardõ there were none. Otherwise, if they had not registred this Sermon, I might haue forsaken Papistrie, & without any feare of burning, I might haue reparred vnto them, & be reconciled to the Romishe Church againe. But nowe, if I were so wicked & lewde, by meanes of my Sermõ registred at Roome, the Pope him selfe, could graunt me no pardon, according to they? owne lawes: But without any faile I should be burnt as an Heretique, for thus learne they Christians. But God defend me from they? clawes, & strengthe

me

me in his faith, & graunt me patience vnto the ende, and in the ende. God graunt me an heart to loue him, and obey my Soueraigne, Quéene Elizabeth: During her life, I hope ý Papists shall not burne me, God graunt her Grace many yéres, to raigne with much felicitie, encrease of honour, and ioy of health, bothe of body and soule. Pray well, O England, for her Maiestie, for truely thou hast much néed, thou knowest the cause as well as I, wherfore the same I do omit to write. This booke is ended, Momus holde thy peace, for there was neuer Momus that euer thriued, vnlesse he became a mome for his labor. Men will say (as they haue done before this tyme,) that this Booke was the labour of other men, as they say the other was: It is well knowne of twéty, and not so few, that I had the helpe of none, in this booke, neyther in the first booke, which was called my Recantation. All the helpe I had, was of God and my bookes, as for other helpe had I none: not so much as one sentence or clawse had I, by other mens industrie, to be written in my booke. This haue I spoken, not to win prayse, or that I should séeme to be coumpted learned, before I be: But I thought it good so much

to write, to certifie the Readers, howe falsely I am accused, and slaundered, and what vntruethes ỹ Papists report of me. I crave no more of them, then they would of me, in the lyke case, to speake no more then trueth is: And let them not spare, to report that which is trueth: so shall they (as I thinke) neyther displease God, nor molest their owne conscience. And before ỹ any man ought to beléeue them, in misreporting ought of me, let them first trie & examine theyr wordes, whether they be true or false, and as they haue prooued theyr wordes, so let them beléeue. Thus I haue ended to write any farther, to God be prayse, & vnto me to accomplishe, what to a Christian belongeth. If you like this simple worke of mine, expect for a better, which I hope to God ere it be long, shalbe brought to lyght, to the misliking of the Papists, and to the discredite of theyr hypocriticall Religion, and to the profite of the Christians, and aduancement of the vndoubted trueth of the Gospell.

FINIS. *Et Laus Deo.*

Dum spiro spero, vita mori, cœlum gehenna.

Liuoris et maleuolentiæ Papistarum, breuis atque dilucida narratio, et explicatio.

PApistarum animos ita distractos, atque discerptos esse video, vt nihil inconstantius aut miserius fingi possit. Duobus retrò annis, summo me prosequuti sunt amore: nunc odio incendũtur, et varia in me cõuicia atque maledicta certè indigne spargunt: prôh dolor, quid scripsi? quid feci? quid loquutus sum, quod non viro libero idoneum, quod non Christiano congruens, quod non ingenuo dignum? Cum hostes humani generis sempiterni animam meam obsederant, et ad eam laniandam acriter incitati fuerant, cum spinis obsita, tenebris obducta, mortisque cincta periculis fuerat anima mea, nemo Romanistarum, erat qui mihi non fauebat, et qui optimam opinionem de me non habebat: sed iam quia Christus salutarem vulneri meo medicinã adhibuit, et mihi homini misero benignitatis suæ lucem porrexit, et ad spem salutis excitauit: pessime de me loquuntur, sic furiarum iaculis agitantur, sic in varias partes impetu quodam rabido concitantur (cum impietas religionis suæ omnibus patefacta sit) vt nullũ sermonẽ habere possint, quo me calumnijs, et vituperijs non afficiant. Quid excogitari potest amentius? quid magis furiosum atque turbulentum, quam animum

mum hoſtili odio imbutũ habere, ſimultates atque inimicitias ex inuidia et æmulatione conceptas, in illum tantùm exercere, qui non plus loquitur quam probare poteſt. Venit interim in mẽtem mihi admirari, quibus rebus adducti plerique Papiſtæ, tantum mendaciis atque figmentis tribuant, vt ea ſummis honoribus decoranda, et omnibus ornamentis afficiẽda eſſe putent: vt grauis illorum mendax eſt conditio, vereor ne exitus multo ſit acerbior. Qui magna fingendi delectatione ducitur, verendum eſt ne ſempiternas exoluat pœnas. Quãdiu poſſint liberè de me mendacia dicant, et quando vlteriùs in medacijs fingendis progredi nequeãt, deſinant tunc mentiri: et ſi me vincunt ingenio, et ſi eruditione ſuperant, non certè (Deo adiuuante) propter ingenij tarditatem me deludi ſinã, ego ad Euangelicæ veritatis fidem, officia vitæ dirigã et Chriſtũ deprecabor, vt mihi fidem adaugeat, et ab illa recidere minimè patiatur, vt odio proſequar religionem Papiſtarum, quæ fauſta nunciat, et perniciem comparat: quæ ſpem virtutis oſtendit, et ingum duriſsimæ ſeruitutis imponit: quæ ſpecie præſentis iucunditatis allicit, et poſtea multis curis animum et mœſtitia ingenti ſolicitat: quæ viam in cœlum ſe monſtraturam eſſe pollicetur, et homines illius ope fretos, in miſeriæ perennis terminũ præcipites exturbat. Colluuio Papiſtarum fremat, quantum lubet, et quãtum poteſt inclamet: nec enim meum eſt, nec id mihi munus aſsig-

assignatum patitur, vel perturbari conuitijs, vel ad omnia maledicta respondere. Ego nunquam aliquem illorum maledicto lacessiui. Liber meæ recantationis, quem in lucem ederam, quem vniuersi Papistæ *Anglicani* et *VVallici*, maledictis lacerant, nullum verbum contumelioſum habet, nisi fortasse querelam iustissimam, et errorum et flagitiorum explicationem verissimam, conuitiũ appellare velint: et tamen quasi apri feroces telo venenato confixi, in me furenter irruunt: tantum verò abfuit, vt contumelijs suis cõturbarer, vt sæpe mihi risum ista suæ linguæ petulantia mouerent. Christum optimum maximum oro, et obtestor per sanguinem illius, pro omnium salute profusum, per vulnera, per acerbissimũ cruciatum, per mortem, qua morti necem intulit, per victoriam, quam de Satanæ imperio consequutus est, vt omnes aduersarios nostros erroribus liberet, et splendore sui luminis illustret, et ad fidem, et religionis sanctissimæ consensionem, et Ecclesiæ septa reducat, spiritusque sui præsidio tueatur, vt simul eadem vitæ perennitate perfruamur. *Amen.*

¶ *Per me miserum, non hominem, sed vermem, non fœlicem, sed infaustam, non bonam, sed improbam creaturam.* I. N. *multis curis et cogitationibus excubãtem atque pernoctantem.*

Non dubito, quin aliqua in hoc libro commissa sint, sed non multa, et non magni momenti fore confido.

GEntle Reader, bothe for mine owne credit, and to gaine thy freendly courtesie: I am to speake somewhat as concerning my obstinacie in my Oration, which perhaps will be lightlie reproched of the wilfull, and may yeelde some cause of misliking to the wise. First, consider the person before whom it was presented, next the place, and lastlie the error wherein I was my self. Beeing then (vnto my no small greefe now) a contemner of Gods true religion, and a delighter in that abhominable and Babilonical sect: I spake that against the Protestants, which neither they nor I could iustly verifie: for no greater delight haue the Papists, then by lyes and wicked reports to abuse the Protestants, defaming our Ministers they care not how, and belying their liues, they care not in what. The which I hearing, and as then perfectly beleeuing: vpon their woords I reported, that vvhich I am hartily sorie for. And yet I haue good hope, that considering I vvas then a Papist, liuing in error and idolatry, and am now in the trueth, imbracing the same in the verie bovvels of my soule: the remainder of my life shall cut off the remembraunce of mine offence, and my dutie faithfully and truely discharged, shall stop the mouthes of all mine enemies. Thus loth to be ouer tedious to thee, and to come into any ill reproche my selfe: I desire thee to respect me as I am, not as I vvas, and to forget my folly, on the establishing of my faithe. In hope vvhereof, I commit thee to God, vvhom I pray to blesse thee vvith his heauenlie prouidence, and increase my faith, to thy comfort and profit. Amen.

FINIS. T. Nichols.

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